

The Walmart Debate

After watching the documentaries, you will prepare for an online debate on the question: "Is Walmart Good for Society?" You will be randomly assigned to defend either a pro or con position on this question. Excellent materials are available in the documentaries as well as on the websites of the American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), connected to the Frontline show Is Walmart Good for America?

How the debate will work: The debate forum will be open for one week corresponding to the opening and closing days of this module.

- During day 1 and day 2, you will watch the documentaries.
- On day 3, each individual assigned to make "pro/positive" arguments for "Why Walmart is good" will submit their argument (no more than one page, single spaced) as a discussion post to Canvas. Title your post "Pro-Walmart Post"
- Day 4 will be for the posting of the "con/negative" arguments. Each individual assigned to take the Con "side" will submit their argument (no more than one page-single spaced). Title your post "Anti-Walmart Post."
- Day 5-6 is set aside for you to prepare and post your responses (rebuttals). Each student will prepare a rebuttal (1 page). Title your post "Pro-Walmart Rebuttal" or "Anti-Walmart Rebuttal."
- On day 7, everyone in the class must make a brief final reaction statement about which side you think provided the most convincing arguments and why, pointing out how your views changed if at all and why. Title this "Final Reaction."

A note on grading: An excellent argument for this debate will take a clear position on the question (a nuanced position is fine as long as it is clearly argued), include reasons for your position, develop those reasons with evidence or examples drawn from the documentaries, textbook or other sources. An excellent rebuttal specifically addresses an assertion from the opposing position and attacks it with logical argumentation and evidence.