Interactive Teams

In 5 minutes*TeamA* will:

(i) formulate a key question that they have from the previous class

(ii) provide an answer

(iii) explain it and

(iv) fully defend it.

*TeamA* will need to think through in advance potential objections and how *TeamA* plans on replying to these. But *TeamA* will not be presenting these objections.

In 3 minutes *TeamB* will present at least one but not more than two objections to *TeamA.*

(i) identify with precision which aspect of the claim is being objected to (if you are objecting to only one aspect of “P if and only if Q” make it clear whether you are objecting to “P only if Q” or “Q only if P.”)

(ii) state the premises and conclusion of the objection

(iii) explain the premises and conclusion

(iv) defend the premises

In 3 minutes *TeamA will reply to the objection(s)*

(i) point out which false claim or assumption the objection is based on and

(ii) defend the claim that it is false [state, explain, and defend the premises]

OR/AND

(i) point out that the conclusion of the objection does not follow from the premises of the objection and

(ii) defend the claim that it the conclusion does not follow from the premises

OR/AND

(i)agree with the objection but

(ii) defend the claim that it is not devastating to the heart of the position with which the paper began and what can still be salvaged

Once this is completed, then, *TeamB* will

(i) formulate a key question that they have from the previous class

(ii) provide an answer

(iii) explain it and

(iv) fully defend it.

*TeamB* will need to think through in advance potential objections and how *TeamB* plans on replying to these. But *TeamB* will not be presenting these objections.

*TeamA* will present at least one but not more than two objections to *TeamB.*

*TeamB will reply to the objection(s)*

This type of oral presentation is not a debate in at least one sense of the word (where people are assigned opposing positions, where only one team can "win" or do well, where one takes a combative attitude toward the other team, etc.).

Instead, the goal is for everyone to try to figure out what they think is true. There is no pressure to agree or disagree with the other team. There is no requirement that the teams coordinate in anyway or have different positions (though it is likely that something will be different -- it is rare that two people have exactly the same argument for exactly the same conclusion).

If you find it helpful to share with the other team head of time, go for it. If you would rather not, that is fine too. If you find it helpful to discuss the topic with others outside of class, go for it (but always give credit during your presentation where credit is due). If you find it helpful to meet with me, please do so!

But whatever you do, \*keep it respectful\*, whether in or outside of class, remember that both teams can do well, and that the ultimate goal is to arrive at a better understanding of these important questions and your own answers to those questions.