

## Recent Collegiate Debate Topics

*(Chosen by students and faculty across the U.S. – updated June 2023)*

### Speech and free expression topics:

- **Should colleges disallow controversial speech that could be construed as hate speech?**
- **Should college campuses disinvite speakers whose ideas can be construed as “cancellable”?**
- **Should colleges impose limits on speech on their campuses?**
- **Should social media corporations have control over what is said on their platforms and who can use them?**
- **Is cancel culture erasing free speech in America?**
- **Is social media misinformation a threat to democracy?**
- **Is deplatforming a valid act on college campuses?**
- **Does regulating social media content do more harm than good?**

### Abortion topics:

- **Without access to abortion, can women achieve equality with men?**
- **Do the rights of an adult woman take precedence of the rights of a fetus?**
- **Should abortion have no restrictions within the United States?**

### Healthcare topics:

- **Is healthcare a human right?**
- **Should everyone be required to receive a COVID vaccine?**
- **Should our college require COVID vaccination for students and staff?**
- **Do public health considerations outweigh individual civil liberties?**
- **Should government provide healthcare for all citizens?**

- **Does the government have the right to impose mandatory quarantines that deprive individuals of freedom of movement?**

#### Gun control topics:

- **Should the U.S. implement more restrictive gun laws to reduce crime?**
- **Should assault weapons be banned?**
- **Should guns be banned on college campuses?**
- **Should average U.S. citizens be able to possess semi-automatic guns?**
- **Should the Second Amendment be abolished?**

#### Assorted topics:

- **Should monuments that are perceived as symbols of racism, such as Confederate statues, be removed from public view?**
- **Should police departments be defunded?**
- **Should local governments defund police departments and redirect funds toward alternative solutions for public safety?**
- **Should there be term limits for the Supreme Court?**
- **Do requirements for voter identification cards and restrictions on mail-in ballots suppress voting rights of minorities?**
- **Should non-discrimination laws take precedence over religious liberty?**
- **Should schools teach about racism?**
- **Should schools teach Critical Race Theory?**
- **Should our immigration laws be changed to allow for quicker citizenship?**
- **Should children born on U.S. soil to non-citizens automatically have U.S. citizenship?**
- **Should women in the U.S. military be assigned combat roles?**

- **Should the U.S. adopt a completely open borders policy?**
- **Should the U.S. build the southern border wall?**
- **Should the U.S. military intervene in response to human rights violations?**
- **Should journalists value objectivity over advocacy in reporting?**
- **Should the minimum wage be raised at the Federal level?**
- **Should transgender athletes compete in women's sports?**
- **Will transgender athlete participation end women's sports?**
- **Did the Portland protests do more harm than good?**
- **Do online college classes do more good than harm?**
- **Should Americans receive Universal Basic Income?**
- **In the U.S., should the states develop their own climate change policies?**
- **Should North Carolina's Senate pass the Parents Bill of Rights? (SB49)**
- **Should student loan debt be forgiven?**
- **Does society unfairly prioritize sports over music and arts programs?**
- **Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?**
- **Does science compel us to accept that the human condition should be improved by genetic engineering?**
- **Should physician-assisted should be legalized?**
- **Should colleges adopt a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty?**
- **Is ChatGPT a threat to higher education?**
- **Does AI provide more benefit than harm to humanity?**