

# **In-Class Debate**

In preparation for your third essay assignment, you will participate in an in-class debate on the topic of whether or not English should be made the official language of the United States. This debate will cause you to understand and think critically about all the issues associated with this topic, and will help you learn to create an effective argument.

## **Requirements**

The class will be split into two teams. One team will argue for English-Only, while the other team will argue against English-Only. Each team must prepare the following:

1. **Due Wednesday, October 26: Debate Brief.**

This brief will **outline** the team's argument, and will include the support which will be used to back up the team's claims. The brief should include **four claims**. These claims should be organized in order of importance (in case we run out of time in class). When preparing these claims, you might consider (but not feel limited by) the following issues:

- National Identity – What binds us as Americans?
- Effects (positive or negative) of English-Only on ethnic minority groups.
- Bilingual Education
- Citizenship/Voting
- Cost
- English-Only in the Workplace
- Necessity of an English-Only policy

2. **Monday, October 31: In-Class Debate.**

Each team must come prepared with the following:

- Opening Remarks (approximately 3-5 minutes)
- Ability to debate for 5-7 minutes on four claims covered in brief.
- Ability to provide 3-5 minute rebuttal of the opposing team's claims.
- Closing Remarks (approximately 3-5 minutes)

3. Each team member must contribute to formulating the team's argument, and all members of the team must speak at least once during the debate.