THE SILENT DEBATE:
An FSA Writing/GP Activity

TEACHERS:
Split your class into groups of 4. Select 6-8 debate topics, depending on how many teams of debaters you have. Write each prompt in the center of its own poster board or large post-it note, which is where students will first engage in a pre-learning brainstorm activity before beginning the official debate on paper.

NOTE: For best results in terms of GP content practice, select a range of topics from the various categories as opposed to picking several from one or two. (Even if you don’t think they’ll like it, challenge them...the exam will!)

TECHNOLOGY

1. Should the ‘Right to be Forgotten’ be a fundamental right in the digital age?
2. Should Facebook do more to monitor violent expressions?
3. Is wearable technology destined to fail?
4. Should modern society embrace the Internet of Things?

POLITICS/GOV’T

5. Is Obama’s Executive Order approach to immigration legal?
6. Should the U.S. implement travel restrictions on countries impacted by pestilences like Ebola?
7. Should the U.S. lift the embargo on Cuba?
8. Do we still need the CIA?
9. Should the government have greater control over the Internet as a means of increasing national security?

HUMAN RIGHTS/EQUALITY/SOCIETY

10. Is big data spreading inequality?
11. Should we give to charity?
12. Does tourism help or harm society?
13. Do international human rights treaties actually work?
14. Should ancient artifacts always belong to their home country?
15. Is a contemporary movement for equality necessary?

**CRIME/PUNISHMENT**

16. Do botched executions make the case for abolishing the death penalty?
17. Is the US government doing enough to protect against cyber attacks?

**EDUCATION**

18. Do ‘trigger warnings’ against potentially disturbing content have a place in higher education?

19. Are global universities helping or hurting American higher education?

**ENTERTAINMENT**

20. Should there be copyright laws in the fashion industry?
21. Should comics/comedians/cartoonists joke about religion?

**ENERGY**

22. Is cheaper oil always better?
23. Is hydraulic fracturing worth the investment?

**HEALTH**

24. Are large corporations like Coca Cola to blame for the rising rates of obesity in America?