**Annexation of the Philippines Debate**

After its victory over the Spanish in the Spanish American War (1898), the United States military occupied the now former Spanish colony of the Philippines. Filipinos in favor of an independent country of the Philippines expected the United States to support this goal. Instead, Congress, as well as the American public, began a heated and passionate debate on the following question:

**Should the United States annex the Philippines?**

The class will be divided into three groups:  one will be pro annexation, one against annexation and one will be a small group of judges (3  - 5 students).  This will leave us with 13 or 14 students per side. After a work day, students will then debate the above questions with the judges asking questions of each side.

**Preparation - Thursday**

Pro and Con: Working with a partner from the same side, read you assigned primary source documents and construct your arguments for the debate based on those document and your background knowledge. Use the argument organizer matrix to help you set up and prepare for the debate.

Judges: Working as a team, you are to read all the primary sources documents and come up with a variety of questions for both the pro and con sides. You do not need to complete the argument organizer, but do need to understand each side’s arguments. The questions should “test” the arguments. As a group, develop eight (8) questions for each side.

**Debate – Friday**

The judges will sit at the front of the room and the pro and con students will face each other. Each student who is arguing will sit with a partner. I will moderate the debate.

Arguments – Pros begin. I’ll alternate pro and con students

Question Time – Judges ask questions of each side. These can be a prepared question or a question that you think of based on an argument.

Repeat above as time permits

Judges recess to discuss which side had the stronger argument and then presents their decision.

Debrief and full class discussion

**Assessments**

Participation points (up to 15 points).

Short writing assignment DUE Tuesday, 1/26. Take a position of your choice and answer the prompt above using clear arguments and citing evidence from the readings, 300 words minimum (30 points)