**Students – Lingua Franca Debate Instructions**

1. The class will be split into two teams
2. You will be doing a debate on the future of English as the global lingua franca
3. Select a couple of leaders for your group to guide your research and activities
4. The debate will be a POINT/COUNTERPOINT format. That is, one team will go first and have 45 seconds to make a point. The opposing team will then have 30 seconds to rebut those points. Then, that team gets to make their point for 45 seconds and the first team will then rebut. The process continues from there.
5. The teacher will moderate the debate
6. During the debate, there will be 3 speakers for each team. Speakers may substitute in and out of the debate, but there will be a maximum of three speakers for each team at any time
7. Team members not speaking should be listening and providing information to those are who are speaking
8. Also, team members not speaking should look up what the opposing team says during the debate in order to give this to your speakers to refute any points which are wrong or unclear
9. Begin today by reading the short article provided below
10. Then begin general research. Leaders, you may want to direct your team members in specific items to look up.
11. Each team is researching their assigned position: The ENGLISH team will argue that English will remain the global lingua franca by 2100. The NOT ENGLISH team will argue that English will be replaced by another language as the global lingua franca
12. Each team should assign about 2/3 of the team to research your own position and about 1/3 of the team should research your opponents’ positions for the debate
13. Use the table on the handout to record your research data.
14. There will some class time to do the research as a team, but you will have to some of this at home. Team leaders need coordinate the research needs and due dates

**English as the Global Lingua Franca of the Future (in other words, English will still be the global lingua franca in 2100).**

**English as a Global Language?**

From Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space, 7th edition, de Blij and Murphy, page 140

What will the global mosaic look like 50 years from now? There is little doubt that more and more people are using English in a variety of contexts. English has become the standard language of international business and travel, much of contemporary popular culture bears the imprint of English, and the computer and telecommunications revolution has relied heavily on the use of English terminology. Does this mean that English is on its way to becoming a global language?

If “global language” means the principal language people use around the world in their day-to-day activities, the geographical processes we have examined so far emphatically do not point to the emergence of English as a global tongue. Population growth rates are generally lower in English-speaking areas than they are in other areas, and there is little evidence that people in non-English speaking areas are willing to abandon their mother tongue in favor of English. Indeed, since language embodies deeply held cultural views and is a basic feature of cultural identity, there is often active resistance to switching to English. In France, for example, a prestigious government-supported body known as the Academie Française has adopted rules forbidding the use of English on signs and in public documents, and it has sought to encourage the use of French-language equivalents for English terms that are creeping into use.

Yet if “global language” means a common lingua franca used around the world, the picture looks rather different. Although not always welcomed, the trend throughout much of the world is to use English as a language of cross-cultural communication—epically in the areas of science, technology, travel, and business. Korean scholars are likely to communicate with their Russian counterparts in English, Japanese scientific journals are increasingly published in English, Danish tourists visiting Italy use English to get around, and the meetings of most international financial and governmental institutions are dominated by English. Under these circumstances, it seems likely that the role of English as an international lingua franca is only likely to grow.

We must be careful, in this conclusion, however. Anyone looking at the world 200 years ago would have likely predicted that French would be the international lingua franca of the future. Times are different now, of course. The role of English in the computer revolution alone makes it hard to imagine a fundamental shift away from the dominance of English in international affairs. Yet economic and political influences on language use are always in flux, and nothing is inevitable. Moreover, in significant parts of the world other languages already function as regional lingua francae. Examples include parts of West Africa, where French functions as the lingua franca, and much of the Middle East and North Africa, where standardized Arabic plays that role. In these and other cases, there is likely to be considerable resistance to the adoption of English as a medium of cross-cultural communication. Hence, although English is likely to continue to expand its dominance as a n international lingua franca,the global picture is likely to remain geographically patchy for a long time to come.

Here is an article that might help you as well - <http://worldcrunch.com/culture-society/why-the-english-language-rules-the-world-no-really-why-/french-german-lingua-franca-davos/c3s10763/#.UWb8L6JQG5I>