Reformation Debate

The Setting: An unnamed city in the Holy Roman Empire, circa 1540. At the moment, the city council is Roman Catholic, as is the population, but they are considering introducing a reformation.

The Question: Which form of Christianity should the city council introduce?

Your mission: Present your case before the city council magistrates as to why they should stay Catholic or convert to your assigned form of Christianity.

Issues to address:

1. What form will your religion take (organization, structure)? Will it be a theocracy? How will daily life (both secular and religious) change for the people?

2. What will be the relationship between temporal (secular) and spiritual power in the city under your religion? What will be the role of the city council? Does your religion believe in toleration or that all citizens must follow just one religion?

3. Why is your religion superior to Catholicism? Why are you superior to the other Christian religions?

Format of debate: Each group will give an overview of their religion’s beliefs and arguments as to why they think the council should allow the religion into the city or to control the government. Each group should then rebut and answer the points of the others, while also advancing your own arguments. Groups will then have a few minutes to respond to each other. Council Magistrates need to do research on all the religions (suggestion: each person should focus on one) and may ask questions at anytime during the debate.

Everyone must do some research and collaborate in Google Classroom. You can use your notes, the textbook, websites below, encyclopedias, books and other legitimate websites. Each group will be graded based on evidence of preparation and giving a concise and clear presentation with rebuttals to the other religions (it will count as a classwork grade). Everyone must speak at least once to receive credit (this includes council magistrates).

Some helpful Reformation Websites:

- The Reformation
- The Protestant Reformation
- Protestant Denominations
- Introduction to the Protestant Reformation: Varieties of Protestantism (includes 8 min. video)

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<th>Group:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
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<td>Lutheran</td>
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<td>Calvinist</td>
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<td>Zwingli/Swiss Reformed</td>
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<td>Anabaptist</td>
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<td>City Council Magistrates</td>
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You will have about 5 minutes on the day of the debate to confer with your group members and create an opening statement. Otherwise you should come prepared with notes and questions to ask the other groups. Also be prepared to have your religious doctrine challenged by the other groups and questioned by the city council magistrates. Everyone must speak at least once (either asking or answering a question or making a statement) to receive full credit.

**Debate Format:**

- Opening Statement: Overview of your religion and arguments why it should be adopted or tolerated
- City Council Magistrates ask questions of the different religions
- Groups can question each other and debate religious beliefs/ideas/doctrine
- City Council Magistrates confer and come back with a decision