**Climate Change Culminating Task**

Name: Topic:

During this unit, you have had the opportunity to ask many questions and discuss the challenges associated with determining cause, effects, responses and adaptations to climate change. Your opinions on all of these topics may vary greatly from that of your classmates. Debating is an important part of any scientific research, and in this project, you will have the opportunity to debate specific issues related to climate change.

This culminating task consists of three parts:

1. Choosing your group members and topic:
	* You will be working in groups of 5-6 students
	* Your group will choose a topic
		+ Alberta Oil Sands
		+ Ethanol Production & Deforestation
		+ Fracking
		+ GMOs
		+ XL Keystone Pipeline
	* Consider your role within the debate – there will be a minimum of two people in the “for” position, two in the “against” position, and one who will provide background information and summarize it for the entire class on the day of the debate.
	* You will research your role and provide a summary of your position in the debate (for or against) with research to backup your information.
2. Consider the roles of others within the debate
	* Choose two opposing roles to your own, research their position arguments, and prepare two rebuttal arguments for each position.
	* The rationale behind this section is to prepare you to debate your position and anticipating what others may say in order to “win” your case.

Position Summary & Rebuttal Arguments Due Date:

1. The Debate
* You will only debate within your group and topic.
* Debate format:
	+ Overview
	+ Arguments in support of the your topic
	+ Opposition can address the arguments
	+ Supporters can respond
	+ Arguments opposed to the your topic
	+ Supporters can address the arguments
	+ Opposition can respond
	+ Closing statements from supporters
	+ Closing statements from opposition
* You can chose whom in your group opens and closes within your “side” of the debate.
* The overview should be 4-5 minutes long, and each debate section should be 2-3 minutes long.

Debate Dates:

Other Information

* You will be provided with an outline of your topic which will include:
	+ Links to background information
	+ Stakeholder positions in support of and against your topic
	+ A graphic organizer to help make rough notes on your topic and rebuttal arguments (though what you hand in should be typed – the file will be available on the course website to add content to the organizer)
* You will be provided with a rubric that indicates how you will be evaluated.
* You will also provide peer assessment during the time you are watching the debates of others.