

Discussion Protocol for Post-SAC Whole Class Discussion

The teacher will facilitate a whole class discussion at the conclusion of the Structured Academic Controversy. The students are free to abandon the assigned positions when responding to the discussion questions. The use of textual evidence is encouraged.

Some questions to consider are as follows:

- How did the events of 9/11 impact the emotions of ordinary American citizens (fear, increased Patriotism)?
- In which ways, did the emotional landscape lead to the passage of the Patriot Act? Example: Social Contract Theory – fear led to increase in rights that citizens willingly gave up in the Patriot Act to feel more secure after the terrorist attacks)
- Do you believe the Patriot Act was the most appropriate way to protect the US after 9/11? Cite evidence to support your opinion.
- In which ways, if any, do you believe the Patriot Act was government overreach? Give specific examples.
- What is your evaluation of the Patriot Act from the perspective of 2025?
- Which rights are you not willing to give up in 2025? Provide examples specific to your personal life with an explanation as to why.
- What are some examples of government action in order to “provide security” in the last few years? Do you believe that action is justified or not. Be specific with your examples.