

SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 4 - 1

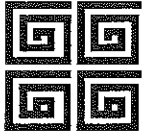
Proposition 4: Give in to the Persians

We Greeks should give in to the Persian barbarians as they prepare to invade our lands as they did 10 years ago. We are too small in numbers and too powerless to oppose them. Therefore, we should cooperate, lay down our arms, and become part of the mighty Persian Empire.

(These suggestions are only an outline. Research further for more ideas and details.

Arguments for the proposition:

- The Persian hordes are too big and powerful for us to defeat in battle. They are angry after their defeat 10 years ago at Marathon. Let's not further antagonize King Xerxes.
- Greeks could never unify to win any major victories, for we are a quarrelsome people never meant to be a united empire or nation. Only during the Olympics do we come together to achieve goals.
- The era of Greek greatness is over. Every dog has its day, and now it's Persia's turn to rule the world and achieve its destiny.
- Being occupied won't be so bad. Persia is a cosmopolitan empire. Its leaders accept and tolerate differences in customs, religions, and beliefs held by the people they conquer.
- Right now, if we surrender, we can dictate our future. If we resist and lose in battle, we can expect disaster.



SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 4 - 2

Arguments against the proposition:

- We should never submit to military despotism. King Xerxes wants to annihilate Hellas, not just occupy it. He wants to avenge the Persian defeat at Marathon 10 years ago by his father, Darius.
- We should unify immediately and fight barbarism to the last Greek warrior, if need be.
- We can expect no favors from Xerxes, surrender or otherwise, especially after Marathon when the Persians were only 25 to 30 miles from their military target, Athens.
- Greek independence and the spirit of freedom-loving men is essential to maintain. It's us against them. The stakes are too high to surrender.
- Greek culture and civilization have achieved a great deal already with so much more yet to accomplish. It would be a tragedy to have it all snuffed out by Persia.
- Perhaps we should evacuate Athens at this late hour and occupy the island of Salamis. Let's put faith in Themistocles and the Greek fleet led by the Athenian navy.

