

January 15, 2019

Dear Fulford Coaches and Debaters,

It is our pleasure to invite you to Ridley College for the Spring Fulford Cup Debate on **Saturday, April 6th, 2019**. The prepared motion is:

Junior (Prepared Parliamentary): Be it resolved that: Modern technology companies are a threat to democracy.

Senior (Prepared Cross-examination): Are Modern technology companies are a threat to democracy?

Context:

In an era when large technology companies have increasingly more power socially, politically, and economically, there has been an impact upon the public life of modern nations. The question is whether or not this has been a threat to western democracies. The debate is meant to be inclusive of nations that fit into the definition of western democracies and is not exclusive to Canada. Modern technology companies include popular media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others that students will be familiar with, as well as corporate communications companies such as Bell Media, Rogers, AT & T. Powerful computer companies that dominate the corporate realm such as Apple, Microsoft, Huawei are also pertinent. The debate centres on whether the communication power of modern technology companies has enhanced democracy or whether it has eroded privacy, free speech, and political association.

Resources:

1. <https://www.ynharari.com/yuval-noah-harari-could-big-data-destroy-liberal-democracy/>
2. <https://www.recode.net/2018/11/15/18095967/facebook-new-york-times-story-mark-zuckerberg-sheryl-sandberg-fired>
3. <https://www.theverge.com/2018/1/19/16911482/james-damore-google-ceo-sundar-pichai-women-in-tech-memo-firing>
4. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-washington-sues-facebook-over-cambridge-analyticas-data-use/>

These resources should be considered a starting point, and it would benefit debaters greatly to read news articles and opinions from a variety of sources on both sides of the topic.

Please register on the Fulford website www.fulforddebate.com. Cheques for the \$150.00 registration fee should be made payable to Ridley College.

Best regards,

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