



VAMUN XXVI

THE HUNGER GAMES

SHOULD THE HUNGER  
GAMES BE DESTROYED EVEN  
IF IT RISKS PLUNGING PANEM  
BACK INTO A CIVIL WAR?



CHAIR: CLOE ELLSWORTH

CO-CHAIR: MAYA ELLSWORTH

# **The Hunger Games**

**Should the Hunger Games be destroyed even if it risks plunging Panem back into a civil war? If so, what type of government or system should replace them to keep the peace between the districts?**

**No computers**

**You CAN use personal pronouns**

**Chair:** Cloe Ellsworth

**Co-Chair:** Maya Ellsworth

## **I. Introduction**

Dear delegates,

My name is Cloe Ellsworth, and this year, I am excited to be your chair for the Hunger Games committee in VAMUN alongside my co-chair, Maya Ellsworth.

The Hunger Games are set in a post-apocalyptic world where the wealthy in the Capital use fear to control the 12 districts. Every year, a boy and a girl from each of the districts are selected to go to the Capitol and fight to the death until only one victor remains. This event is called the “Hunger Games,” and it is said to help maintain peace in Panem because it reminds the districts of their horrific past, when Panem was in a state of civil war.

After Katniss Everdeen, a victor from District 12, escaped from her second Hunger Games and became a symbol of freedom, she joined District 13 (a district that had been believed to be destroyed) and led a revolution against President Snow. With Snow imprisoned, delegates in the Hunger Games Committee must decide whether the Hunger Games should be destroyed, even if their removal could risk bringing Panem back into a state of civil war. Furthermore, delegates will debate and decide what type of government or system should replace them to keep the peace between the districts.

Throughout our sessions, delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the implications that continuing to host annual Hunger Games will have on the citizens of Panem. We will dive deep into ethics and politics, considering that delegates will have to agree upon a type of government to help control the districts. Throughout the debate, delegates will engage in conversations about political theories and foundational beliefs behind certain types of government, which will help them establish a structured plan to unite the districts.

## **II. Importance**

- A. MUN Topic: “Assessing the morality and consequences of hosting annual Hunger Games.”
- B. Main question: “Should the Hunger Games be destroyed even if it risks plunging Panem back into a civil war? If so, what type of government or system should replace them to keep the peace between the districts?”

1. Prompt: "The Hunger Games Committee will debate the ethical implications of having annual Hunger Games, and will assess if the peace they claim to maintain is enough justification for the deaths of 23 tributes each year. Delegates must evaluate if the Hunger Games should continue, and back up their claims with thoughts stemming from political theory. Additionally, delegates will have the opportunity to establish a new type of government for Panem."

### **III. History and description of the issue**

#### **A. Key Questions for Debate:**

1. Ethics of the Capitol's regime:
  - Was the Capitol justified in forcing 24 citizens to compete in vicious, violent games with the excuse of maintaining peace after the horrific war that is known as the Dark Days?
  - Should citizens of the Capitol face any repercussions for benefiting from an unjust system?
2. Panem's future government:
  - What type of government should Panem adopt?
  - How can the new type of government prevent the return of oppressive systems?
  - What will become of former Capitol officials?
3. Social and economic implications:
  - How will PAMEN rebuild destroyed districts?
  - What type of policies should be included in the new form of government to ensure a fair distribution of food, medicine, and technology among the districts?
  - Should each district keep on specializing in one thing? If so, what will prevent citizens from one district from being extremely wealthier than citizens from another district (like how District 1 is far wealthier than District 12)?

#### **B. Context about the districts:**

- District specialization:
  - 1: Luxury goods
  - 2: Weapons
  - 3: Technology
  - 4: Fishing
  - 5: Power and electricity
  - 6: Transportation
  - 7: Lumber and paper

- 8: Textiles and clothing
- 9: Grain production
- 10: Livestock and meat production
- 11: Agriculture
- 12: Coal mining
- 13: Mining graphite (a hidden industry in nuclear technology).

### C. Background:

The Earth was devastated by extreme climates and nuclear war, destroying modern society. The populations that survived were later affected by droughts, storms, and rising sea levels. After these extreme conditions, survivors founded a new nation called Panem in the region of the Rocky Mountains. With time, Panem grew larger and eventually segmented into thirteen districts. The Capitol used oppressive control to dictate what each district was responsible for in order to provide for the needs of the nation.

Due to the oppressive ways that the Capitol used to exploit each district, some of the Districts united to rebel and were led by District 13. The Civil War, which is known as the Dark Days, lasted around three years, with both sides suffering many losses. During the final days of the war, it became clear that the Districts couldn't win, which caused District 13 to make a deal with the Capitol. After District 13 took a significant amount of nuclear weapons, the Capitol agreed to let 13 be independent if, and only if, they removed their support from the other districts and appeared to be destroyed on the surface.

After the apparent destruction of District 13, the Capitol crafted the Treaty of Treason, which reinforced the Capitol's absolute control by restricting the rights and autonomy of the districts. Among the Treaty's restricting laws was the ban on travel between the districts, which helped keep them isolated and divided. The most important part of the treaty was the establishment of the annual Hunger Games, which consisted of a competition between two tributes from each district until there was only one survivor.

A boy and a girl from each district between the ages of twelve and eighteen were chosen from a lottery to participate in the Games. After being selected, tributes were brought to the Capitol and had a short amount of time to train. Then, the 24 tributes were taken into an arena and began fighting to the death until there was a crowned victor.

The Games served as a cruel reminder to the districts to remind them of the consequences that come with rebelling. They also highlighted the insane amount of power that the Capitol had over the districts, since they were ripping away children from their families so that they could fight other children to death. Aside from

intimidating and demonstrating the power of the Capitol, the Games were entertainment, especially for residents of the Capitol. The Games were televised, and every citizen was required to watch them.

Once the Games were created, the districts endured over seventy-five years of oppression and were controlled by the Capitol through its Peacekeepers. During this time, people barely had rights, and executions of those who defied the laws became common.

The first ten Games were extremely flawed. After the disastrous 10th Hunger Game, which was the first to introduce mentors, many regulations were implemented, such as the promise of a luxurious life for the victor. Over time, the wealthy districts, such as 1, 2, and 4, began training children for the Hunger Games. A conspiracy that involved several victors, members of the Snow-regime, and District 13 emerged at some point (possibly decades) before the 74th Hunger Games. Ironically, the Games, which were intended to prevent the districts from rebelling, were a significant cause that incited the districts to rebel.

The Second Rebellion sparked at the end of the 74th Hunger Games, when Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark threatened to kill themselves if the Gamemakers didn't keep their promise of letting 2 tributes survive if they both came from the same District. Their act was interpreted as an act of rebellion by many, and it caused an increase in civil unrest in the Districts during the months leading up to the 75th Hunger Games (also known as the Third Quarter Quell).

Each Quarter Quell included a special rule. For the Third Quarter Quell, it was decided that the tributes were to be past victors. Once in the arena, Katniss and Peeta teamed up with many other tributes and decided to figure out how the arena worked to escape. Then, Katniss shot an arrow that destroyed the arena by being connected to a conductive wire that surrounded a tree that was struck by lightning. She was rescued and taken to District 13, along with Beetee and Finnick (other victors), which was an underground bunker. Other tributes, such as Peeta and Johanna, were captured by the Capitol. To punish Katniss for her actions, President Snow had District 12 destroyed. At this time, multiple districts began rebelling against the oppressive Capitol.

Once there was a full-blown rebellion, Katniss was chosen to be the symbol of the revolution, a 'Mockingjay.' The Capitol started abusing Peeta to try and convince the citizens of Panem that a war was not worth it, but after Katniss managed to save Peeta, it became clear that they weren't going to back down. During the final battle, known as the Battle of the Capitol, rebel forces invaded the city and pushed back Capitol forces. During the battle's peak, President Coin (the leader of District 13) ordered a bombing of the Capitol civilians, causing many casualties, which included children. Considering that many thought that the bombing was caused by Snow, he lost all support and was arrested. After Snow's

arrest, President Coin claimed that she would be the interim President until she held elections, though it was clear that she planned to consolidate power.

This Committee will take place during the meeting in which Coin, Katniss, Peeta, Haymitch, and many others discuss what will become of Panem, addressing whether the Hunger Games should continue. For this Committee, there will be characters, such as President Snow, who weren't part of the meeting but will be added to show differing perspectives. It is important to note that any events after the meeting (such as the execution of President Snow and President Coin) may not be debated or used as evidence because our debate takes place before those incidents.

#### **IV. Links for further research:**

##### **A. Movies:**

1. The Hunger Games
2. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire
3. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1
4. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2
5. The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

##### **B. Books:**

1. The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes
2. Sunrise on the reaping
3. The Hunger Games
4. Catching Fire
5. Mockingjay

##### **C. Links:**

1. <https://screenrant.com/hunger-games-districts-explained/#:~:text=While%20District%201%20may%20be,the%20first%20Hunger%20Games%20movie.>
2. [https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Panem#The\\_Second\\_Rebellion](https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Panem#The_Second_Rebellion)
3. [https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Timeline?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Timeline?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
4. [https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Dark\\_Days](https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/Dark_Days)
5. [https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/District\\_13](https://thehungergames.fandom.com/wiki/District_13)

##### **C. Recommendations:**

1. If you watch the movies or read the books, pay attention to how the Capitol uses fear to control the districts.
2. A large part of the debate will be choosing a new type of government, so make sure that you are familiar with political theories. Additionally, it will be

crucial to know what each type of government is and to be aware of the implications that citizens will have to face under each government.

3. Make sure that all of your evidence from the movies or books is taken from events prior to, or during, the meeting discussing the future of Panem. The debate's timeline will be aligned to that meeting, so any evidence or mention of events after that, such as the execution of President Snow or President Coin, will be invalid.

## **V. Characters:**

- ★ Katniss Everdeen
- ★ Peeta Mellark
- ★ Haymitch Abernathy
- ★ Johanna Mason
- ★ Beetee Latier
- ★ President Alma Coin
- ★ President Coriolanus Snow
- ★ Plutarch Heavensbee
- ★ Effie Trinket
- ★ Enobaria
- ★ Gale Hawthorne
- ★ Annie Cresta
- ★ Tigris

## **Important information:**

**Position papers are due on the 19th of April.**