**The Great Debate**

**Position Statements**

This packet includes position statements for the following 8 issues:

1. The threat posed by Iran
2. Territorial compromise
3. Religion and state
4. Who is a Jew
5. Citizenship and rights
6. Security/civil liberties
7. Army and society
8. Israel-Diaspora relations

After hearing about each issue, campers will be asked to choose the view that most appeals to them.

1. The threat posed by Iran

* [Gray square] Israel should employ any means necessary prevent Iran from attaining nuclear weapons -- up to and including the launch of an independent military strike on nuclear targets in Iran, even if the U.S. urges it not to do so.
* [Gray rectangle] Israel must coordinate all of its efforts to stop Iran with those of the U.S., and must allow the American President to set policy and lead the way.
* [Gray triangle] Israel should encourage global efforts to use sanctions to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons; a military strike would bring unknown consequences for Israel and should be avoided at all costs.

2. Territorial compromise

* [Green square] Israel deserves to keep the land, it captured in the Six Day War because who ever heard of a country giving up territory it won in a defensive war?
* [Green rectangle] God promised the entire Land of Israel to the Jews. Israel has no right to give up that birthright.
* [Green triangle] Israel should offer to trade the West Bank and Golan Heights for real peace with the Palestinians, Syrians and the entire Arab world.

3. Religion and state

* [Blue square] Israel is a Jewish state and as such the country should be governed by strict Orthodox Judaism. Only kosher food should be available. No public desecration of Shabbat should be allowed.
* [Blue rectangle] Israel’s official religion can be Judaism, but the citizens should be free to observe – or not observe – as they see fit. Non-kosher food should be available to those who want it, and people should be free to drive and shop and work on Shabbat.

4. Who is a Jew

* [White square] The definition of a Jew for purposes of getting Israeli citizenship – anyone who has at least one Jewish grandparent or is married to such a person – should be the definition for deciding who is considered Jewish.
* [White rectangle] The definition according to Jewish religious law – anyone born to a Jewish mother, or converted in an Orthodox conversion – should be the definition for deciding who is considered Jewish and who can immigrate to Israel.
* [White triangle] Anyone who considers himself or herself Jewish should be treated as a Jew in Israel, entitled to be a citizen, and to all the other rights Jews are entitled to in Israel.

5. Citizenship and rights

* [Red square] All residents of Israel should have citizenship and equal rights
* [Red rectangle] Only Jews should be allowed to be citizens of Israel
* [Red triangle] Non-Jews should be granted citizenship, but they should not enjoy all rights enjoyed by Jews, because Israel is a Jewish state. Likewise, non-Jewish Israelis should not have to serve in the army, because they are not Jewish.

6. Security/civil liberties

* [Yellow square] Since the threat of terror comes from Arabs, not Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of Israel should be treated differently when it comes to maintaining civil liberties.
* [Yellow rectangle] Because of Israel’s precarious security situation, civil liberties must take a back seat to efforts to crack down on terror.
* [Yellow triangle] Any democracy – including Israel -- must find ways to protect its citizens without violating civil liberties.

7. Army and society

* [Orange square] The Israel Defense Force’s top commanders should determine what actions need to be taken to keep Israel safe.
* [Orange rectangle] The prime minister, defense minister and cabinet must have the final word on military plans and operations.
* [Orange triangle] Israel should entrust its security to its close ally the United States, and follow the policies set by Washington.

8. Israel-Diaspora relations

* [Beige square] American Jews should support the policies of the democratically elected government of Israel.
* [Beige rectangle] American Jews should have a say in Israeli policies, either by being allowed to vote in Israeli elections or by having representation in a second Knesset that would have power equal to the one in Jerusalem.
* [Beige triangle] American Jews don’t really need to take a position on Israel’s policies, and their support isn’t crucial in any way.