

# BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

---

## Debate #1: This House Believes Qatar Should Tax Businesses Selling Sugary Drinks to Promote Public Health

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

### Readings

- Hartocollis, A. (2010, July 2). Failure of State Soda Tax Plan Reflects Power of an Antitax Message. *New York Times*. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/03/nyregion/03sodatx.html>.
- Malkin, E. (2013, October 15). Mexico Takes Bloomberg-Like Swing at Soaring Obesity. *New York Times*. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/16/world/americas/mexico-takes-a-bloomberg-like-swing-at-obesity.html>.
- Sanger-Katz, M. (2016, June 16). Soda Tax Passes in Philadelphia. Advocates Ask: Who's Next? *New York Times*. Retrieved August 16, 2016, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/17/upshot/soda-tax-passes-in-philadelphia-advocates-ask-whos-next.html>.
- Soft Drinks Set to Cost More as GCC Proposes 100% Tax. (2016, May 16). *Qatar Tribune*. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <http://archive.qatar-tribune.com/viewnews.aspx?n=D993F53A-D502-4ADF-B01A-83472E1D6C27&d=20160516>.
- World Health Organization. (2015, January). Qatar: WHO Statistical Profile. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/qat.pdf>.
- World Health Organization. (n.d.). Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) Country Profiles, 2014. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from [http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/qat\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/qat_en.pdf).
- International Diabetes Federation. (n.d.). Qatar. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <http://www.idf.org/membership/mena/qatar>.
- Central Intelligence Agency. (n.d.). Country Comparison :: Obesity - Adult Prevalence Rate. *The World Factbook*. Retrieved August 14, 2016, from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2228rank.html>.

### Questions

1. What seem to be the strongest arguments that support and justify this debate's motion?
2. What seem to be the strongest arguments that critique and reject this debate's motion?