

The Great Debate

Spend a few minutes discussing an issue in astronomy among the two listed below with your group members. At the end of the period, your group will give a 1-2 minute presentation to the class supporting their position.

1. Is Pluto a Planet?

Is it? While it's probably no secret where your GSI and professor stand, there are good arguments both for and against this proposition. Formulate a case in favor of including, or excluding, Pluto from planetary classification.

2. Should more resources be spent to mitigate the risk of killer asteroids?

Right now asteroid detection, and research into how to deflect such an object before impact, is a fairly small part of NASA's budget. Should the government allocate more money to this issue?