Should secret wiretapping be legal? Debating the Issue



I. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

Secret wiretapping should be allowed. The government should have the right to listen to people's conversations and read their e-mails or keep track of their Internet history. Wiretapping will keep the United States safe from possible attacks.

Secret wiretapping is not acceptable. The government invades our privacy by reading our email and listening to our conversations. We should be able to write and talk about what we want, as long as we do not hurt anyone.

If the United States is in danger and there are people who might harm our country, secret wiretapping should be used. The government needs to ask a court first before doing it, though:

Wiretapping should only be allowed if the government warns people first. People have the right to know whether the government is recording their phone conversations and reading their email messages.

2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes: GO!

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

I believe that ...

I agree with you because. . .

You make a good point, but have you considered...

Can you show me evidence in the text that supports what you said?