***Brief Introductions from Debaters***

***Blake Arjoonsingh***: I'm Blake , I am nocturnal so a lot of my responses will come in the afternoon. I currently am writing a book, and I served in the United States Marine Corp for a few years. Currently I'm a writer and I love to camp , and yes I know that's a weird thing to throw in but it does affect my overall viewpoint on the discussion I promise. I'll do my best to stay on topic--if I seem to drift off to something else just remind me. I look forward to discussing this topic with y'all and hope to gain some valuable insight to both sides of this debate.

***James Chillemi***: I’m James. I’m a lawyer who has done work on constitutional 2A cases and who believes the right to keep and bear arms predates any words on paper. More than that I think the empirical data is crystal clear that abrogating weapons to solely government authorities has resulted in 262 million government-caused deaths in the last century alone.

I look forward to our discussion.

***Joseph Costa***: I am a certified public accountant. I am a gun owner and hunter, but also feel the 2nd amendment has been stretched beyond its purpose.

***Yvonne G.***: Hi, I’m Yvonne and I was born and raised in Germany and later lived on what is considered on of the gun capitals of the US: Sarasota, FL. I know people who have been shot and am horrified by the non stop carnage in this country.

***Maim Hoque***: I am a college student at CUNY Queens College majoring in Political Science and Sociology. I am also currently serving as the President of the Queens College Speech and Debate Society. I am also a debate coach with the American Debate League.

I met Danielle at the NYC Political Forum, where I debated against on the motion in whether "social media is good for democracy."

***Phil McGovern***: My name is Phil, I am a lifelong DEM but have also grown up with guns and was a kid member of the NRA when it was a gun safety organization. The adults around me were all world war 2 veterans and i grew up with the stories and overall comfort level about and around guns. I am in favor of a robust and reasonable regulation of guns in our society. The status quo is not acceptable.

***Val Parks***: I am a retired correctional peace officer who has owned guns but believes sensible gun reforms are needed.

***Louis Salvatti***: Hello everyone, My name is Lou Salvati. I am a partner for a small business, but previously worked, wrote, & volunteered for numerous non profit political organizations. While I do believe the statistics also suggest gun ownership is a net positive from a utilitarian perspective, I believe more importantly that it is necessary from a philosophical & historical perspective to restrict the government’s ability to regulate guns as much as possible.