

DEBATE CONTEST!

"It is proposed that _____"

The presumption in a debate is that the status quo is satisfactory until proven otherwise. The burden of the proof is therefore upon the affirmative.

As a judge you must attempt to determine which team does the better debating (forget your own convictions).

Did the affirmative prove that a change is required? Did the negative prove that it is better to maintain the status quo?

An argument is won by a side if it is not challenged by the opposition, no matter how poorly the argument was developed.

"Proof" is: a fact, a generally agreed statistic, a statement by an authority, etc... "I think, I assume, I'm sure..." are not proofs.

Judges should penalize such things as discourtesy, distortion of opponent's remarks, obvious fabrication of evidence...

Remember that in a debate contest the arguments are more important than the way they are delivered.

Here are the speaker responsibilities (and the time allotted):

CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES (5 mins each)

Affirmative #1

- a. state the resolution
- b. show purpose and importance of debate
- c. give a brief history
- d. define the terms of the resolution
- e. state the general issues
- f. summarize the affirmative position
- g. explain the procedure
- h. cover 1st argument
- i. support 1st argument

Negative #1

- a. accept or reject definition of terms as presented by affirmative #1
- b. add on missing information as presented by affirmative #1
- c. give general refutation of the points covered by aff. #1
- d. summarize negative position
- e. cover 1st argument
- f. provide evidence and proof of 1st argument
- g. summarize neg. point and introduce what neg. #2 will cover

Affirmative #2

- a. refute negative #1 charges or questions
- b. refer back to original plan
- c. present argument #2
- d. provide evidence (proof) for argument #2
- e. cover argument #3
- f. provide evidence for #3
- g. summarize arguments
- h. restate position and appeal to the audience for acceptance

Negative #2

- a. refute affirmative #2 charges or questions
- b. give further reference and support for partner's points
- c. give his/her portion of negative arguments
- d. summarize main points
- e. restate negative position and ask audience acceptance.

REFUTATION AND REBUTTAL (3 mins each)

Negative #1

- a. summarize partner's points and amplify those necessary
- b. concentrate on impracticability of affirmative plan and point out new evils emerging from adoption of their plan.
- c. discount any advantage cited by affirmative for their plan
- d. attempt to prove there is no need for change from status quo.
- e. end with short summary.

Affirmative #1

- a. summarize high points of the debate so far.
- b. counter all the opposition's arguments directly, pointing out weaknesses in logical structure.
- c. restate all contention of the affirmative team.
- d. end with a short summary.

Negative #2

- a. summarize debate to that point, emphasize crucial issues still under consideration
- b. refute what affirmative has established, especially the prima facie point.
- c. avoid calling for more information.
- d. review all major objections the negative has to the affirmative proposal.
- e. close with direct appeal to audience to concur with the negative.

Affirmative #2

- a. analyze entire debate and boil down to critical issues.
- b. No new information must be introduced
- c. refute arguments advanced by negative
- d. provide rebuttal material to strengthen team's case
- e. tie all major points and point out what affirmative has accomplished.
- f. restate how need has been established and how recommended plan meets that need.
- g. close asking for concurrence with affirmative position.

GOOD LUCK TO BOTH TEAMS