

Figure 6.1 Debate Guidelines

Each team will have at least two people on the affirmative (for) side and two people on the negative (against) side.

Debate Format

1. Affirmative (for) presents case: 3 minutes max
2. Negative (against) presents case: 3 minutes max
3. Affirmative (for) and negative (against) respond to one another: 4 minutes max
4. Affirmative (for) summarizes and concludes: 1 minutes max
5. Negative (against) summarizes and concludes: 1 minutes max

After the debate, the class will vote to see which side won. This vote will not influence your final grade.

Tips

1. **You are always right:** No matter what you really believe, if you want to win, then you have to know that whatever you say is correct and your opposition is always wrong.
2. **Strong central argument:** Every point you make should be linked back to this central argument.
3. **Rebut:** If the other side has an incorrect fact, rebut it. If they do not link back to their team's case, rebut it. If they give an example that has no relevance, rebut it. Remember, the opposition is always wrong.
4. **Never insult the opposition:** No matter how much you want to, don't! If you want to insult something, do it to their argument. Don't use personal attacks if you want to win.
5. **Have passion:** Believe in what you are saying and you probably will win. Speak from the heart, but also use logic and research.

Debate Sentence Frames

I will argue that . . .	I will show that . . .	You can see that . . .
The evidence shows that . . .	My opponent believes . . .	All the evidence points toward . . .
That is simply not true . . .	It is clear that . . .	My opponent is wrong because . . .

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