

Vocabulary

Resolution: The question being debated, written in the form of a statement. Each side will either agree or disagree with this.

Affirmative: The side that agrees with the resolution.

Negative: The side that disagrees with the resolution.

Opening Statements: The first round of debate, when both sides present their background information and state their main arguments.

Constructive: The second round of debate, when both sides present their supporting information and the main reasons that they are right.

Rebuttal: The third round of debate, when both sides try to break down the position of the other side, and explain the reasons that side is wrong.

Claim: An argument written in your own words. Claims can be background, support, or rebuttal but should be based in evidence and easy to understand.

Support: Information from research or from your own logic, which clearly shows why you are right. This may be a mix of quotation (give source) and your own words (use simple language).

Evidence: Information quoted directly with source provided, showing that your ideas come from facts, found in credible sources.

Debrief: An explanation or analysis after the fact. In this case, a discussion of what was good and bad about the debate, and a chance to ask questions for clarification.

Rules of Debate

When speaking:

All team members must use appropriate language, speak slowly and clearly, and use appropriate volume. No one may make personal attacks or insult anyone in the room. You may only attack ideas, never people.

When listening:

All team members must listen quietly, take notes, and be prepared to step in to help team members. No one may distract, laugh at, or tease others. You may write any questions or concerns down, but may not speak until the debate is over.

What is graded:

All students will earn 3 grades for this activity. The first is a class work grade for your background research. The second is a project grade for the notes taken before and during the debate (on your own side AND the other side). The third is a class participation grade for your appropriate participation and behavior during the debate. To do well, everyone must take excellent notes, speak when it is their turn, and listen politely when it is not.

Structure of Debate

Opening Statements - 1-2 minutes

Affirmative: greets everyone, introduces the team and position, reads the resolution, then presents all background information.

Negative: greets and introduces, then re-words the resolution sharing their own opinion, then presents all background information

Constructive- 5 minutes

Affirmative: presents CSE for each piece of supporting information. Give most convincing information first.

Negative: Does the same

Break- 2 minutes

Both teams re-group to make sure that they understood the other side's argument, and are ready for rebuttal.

Rebuttal- 3 minutes

Negative: Presents CSE for each rebuttal, or reason why the other side is wrong.

Affirmative: Does the same

Break- 2 minutes

Both teams re-group to make sure that they have presented their strongest arguments and are ready for closing statements.

Closing Statements- 1-2 minutes

Affirmative: Re-states the resolution, strongest arguments OR rebuttals, and thanks everyone.

Negative: Does the same, gets the last word.

Debrief- as much time as needed

Both teams will be allowed to ask questions to clarify the other team's arguments, but NOT to continue the debate. Mrs. Mapson will announce the winner, and explain why.

Requirements for Notes:

Team Notes

Create a table similar to the example on a separate sheet of paper. List ALL your team members and what they will say. HIGHLIGHT yourself. You can fill this in during debate if you are behind. Each person must take their OWN notes.

Debate Notes:

During the debate, create a similar template for the OTHER team. Fill it out in the EXACT same way, to show understanding of their arguments. If you can't keep up or understand, raise your hand to ask a question AFTER the debate has ended, during the debrief.

Opening Statements	
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Constructive	
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Rebuttal	
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Closing Statements	
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas
Name of Speaker 1	Main ideas