

# DEBATE GUIDELINES

*(Note: This is a formal debate. Teachers may choose to use a more informal format by letting the assigned two teams not adhere to stringent time frames and just take turns expressing views for their side.)*

## Objective of Assignment:

Students will engage in a debate focused on two opposing views. Engaging in this structured event requires each student to critically evaluate current evidence, examine personal convictions based on values and beliefs, and synthesize relevant information to provide detailed information so that others may make an informed decision.

## Format:

1. Two teams will be assigned. One team will create an affirmative presentation while the other team will be responsible for creating a negative or opposing presentation. Involvement by each student is required.
2. Debate guidelines:
  - a. **Affirmative Plan: 4 minutes.** This is your introduction. What will you be discussing and why? Get our attention.
  - b. **Negative Rebuttal: 2 minutes.** This is a direct rebuttal to the Affirmative Plan. This team addresses only those issues identified in the Affirmative Team's introduction.
  - c. **Negative Plan: 4 minutes.** This is your introduction. Get our attention. What you will be discussing and why.
  - d. **Affirmative Rebuttal: 2 minutes.** Direct rebuttal to the negative plan. This team addresses only those issues identified in the Negative's team's introduction.
  - e. **10 minute break** for preparation/adjustment to argument
  - f. **Negative Argument: 10 minutes.** This is the body of the speech. Lay it all out. Fact, stats, use sources, argue your side. The Affirmative Team cannot interrupt during this argument.
  - g. **Affirmative Cross Examination: 8 minutes.** Ask the tough questions, demand answers, do anything and everything you can to counter the argument of the negative. The Negative Team does not ask questions back. Their role is to provide answers only.
  - h. **Affirmative Arguments: 10 minutes.** This is the body of the speech. Again, lay it all out...facts, stats, use sources, argue your side. The Negative Team cannot interrupt during this argument.
  - i. **Negative Cross Examination: 8 minutes.** Ask the tough questions, demand answers, do anything and everything you can to counter the argument of the negative. The Affirmative Team does not ask questions back. Their role is to provide answers only.
  - j. **10 minute break** to prepare for closing.
  - k. **Affirmative Closing: 5 minutes.** Use emotion for a big ending...you've seen the "TV lawyers" present their closing...do it here!
  - l. **Negative Closing: 5 minutes...**same thing...here's your chance!