

Policy Debate Format

First affirmative constructive (3 minutes) *can be completely written and learned in advance! YOUR TEAM MAY CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTER FOR THIS IN ADVANCE and you may write as a team. You may use Keynote, Ppt, etc. for reference.*

Introduction

- Opening - state your name and partner's name and that you are speaking for the affirmative; express pleasure for opportunity to debate the topic; state the proposition
- Define key terms – What is your topic about? Define it. (example – Science – define as the Scientific method to help prove your point.)
- Present your thesis statement (See debate goals for parallel thesis statement format)

Body

- Describe the issue, using a combination of logos, ethos, and pathos
- Support the affirmative case with at least 3 supporting pieces of evidence and reasoning (save at least 1 for rebuttal)
 - Briefly introduce your plan and how it solves the problem

Conclusion

- Summarize your position. Say “Thank you.”

First negative constructive (3 minutes) *YOUR TEAM MAY CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTER FOR THIS IN ADVANCE and you may write as a team. You may use Keynote, Ppt, etc. for reference.*

Introduction

- Greet - state your name and partner's name and that you are speaking for the negative; express pleasure for the opportunity to debate the topic of _____
- Either accept the affirmative's definitions or correct definitions presented by affirmative
- Describe the issue from the point of view of the negative
- Introduce your case with your thesis statement: “*We intend to prove that there is no need to . . .*”

Body

- State negative philosophy by presenting at least 3 pieces of evidence and reasoning to support them (save at least 1 to re-establish during rebuttal)
 - Refute the need for change; explain why the status quo is preferable (defend present system)
 - Why there is no reason for change; diminish significance (quantitative/qualitative)?
- Attack the need for a plan, possibly why it will cause more harm than good
- *(Optional advanced strategy! You can accept that the status quo could be changed in a MINOR way; then introduce a counter plan that is significantly different from the affirmative's plan.)*
- Re-direct the issue - Refute affirmative's points with evidence and reasoning

Conclusion

- Summarize the negative case so far. Say “Thank you.” •

Second affirmative constructive (3 minutes)

Introduction

- Present overview of the debate so far, contrasting affirmative and negative positions
- Defend definitions of terms and topicality, if necessary
- Present more evidence to support your thesis statement to show where you are going,

Body

- Attack the negative philosophy defending the present system, especially harm and significance
- Directly address each of the specific challenges issued by the negative
- Re-establish why change is necessary
- Explain your plan with details; describe the benefits of the plan, how the plan will solve the problem

Conclusion

- End with an appeal to adopt the resolution. Say “Thank you.”

Second negative constructive (3 minutes)

Introduction

- Present overview of the debate so far, contrasting affirmative and negative positions
- Defend definitions of terms and topicality, if necessary
- Present more evidence to support your thesis statement to show where you are going,

Body

- Attack the negative philosophy defending the present system, especially harm and significance
- Directly address each of the specific challenges issued by the negative
- Re-establish why change is necessary
- Explain your plan with details; describe the benefits of the plan, how the plan will solve the problem

Conclusion

- End with an appeal to adopt the resolution. Say “Thank you.”

REBUTTALS: Both sides

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE:

- Re-direct the issue - Refute the arguments introduced by the second affirmative, point by point
- Again attack affirmative's justification for change

- Summarize the entire negative block
- End with instructions: *We must not allow . . .*

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE ON THE AFFIRMATIVE SIDE:

- Refute negative's plan objections; point out fallacies in reasoning
- Rebuild your case at major points of attack; offer new evidence to support your contentions
- Re-direct the issue - Respond to all the arguments from the second negative constructive arguments and first negative rebuttal; defend and re-support the arguments you can

Second negative rebuttal speech (2 – 3 minutes) - *last chance for the negative side to speak. YOUR TEAM MAY CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTER FOR THIS IN ADVANCE and you may write as a team.*

- Rebuild your case at major points of attack; offer new evidence to support your contentions
- Explain why your side should win: Review plan objections and disadvantages, refuting affirmative's responses; point out any issues dropped by the affirmative
- Summarize the negative position in a dramatic way; call for rejection of the proposal • Thank the audience and judge(s)

Second affirmative rebuttal speech (2 – 3 minutes) - *last speech! YOUR TEAM MAY CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTER FOR THIS IN ADVANCE and you may write as a team.*

- Point out any arguments dropped by the negative; these are considered your points now
 - Respond to objections negative made to your plan and point out those that were dropped by the second negative re-butalist; dropped arguments are conceded arguments!
 - Remind the judges of your arguments and why they are more important than the negative's
 - Be dramatic in your big picture. Make your audience care! End with a strong appeal to adopt the resolution, to accept the proposal.
 - Thank the audience and the judge(s)