

Debate

Definition:

Debate is a process that involves formal discussion on a particular topic. In a debate, opposing arguments are put forward to argue for opposing viewpoints. Debate occurs in public meetings, academic institutions, and legislative assemblies. It is a formal type of discussion, often with a moderator and an audience, in addition to the debate participants.

Logical consistency, factual accuracy and some degree of emotional appeal to the audience are elements in debating, where one side often prevails over the other party by presenting a superior "context" or framework of the issue. In a formal debating contest, there are rules for participants to discuss and decide on differences, within a framework defining how they will do it.

Rules of Debate:

1. There are two teams, each consisting of two or three speakers.
2. Each team has two or three constructive speeches, and two to three rebuttal speeches. The affirmative gives the first constructive speech, and the rebuttals alternate: negative, affirmative, negative, affirmative. The affirmative has both the first and last speeches of the debate.
3. When worded as a proposition of policy, the topic requires the affirmative to support some specified action by some particular individual or group. The affirmative has the right to make any reasonable definition of each of the terms of the proposition. If the negative challenges the reasonableness of a definition by the affirmative, the judge must accept the definition of the team that shows better grounds for its interpretation of the term.
4. The affirmative must advocate everything required by the topic itself. No revision of position of a team is permitted during the debate.
5. He who asserts must prove. In order to establish an assertion, the team must support it with enough evidence and logic to convince an intelligent but previously uninformed person that it is more reasonable to believe the assertion than to disbelieve it. Facts must be accurate. Visual materials are permissible, and once introduced, they become available for the opponents' use if desired.
6. In the questioning period, the questioner may ask any fair, clear question that has a direct bearing on the debate. The questioner may use the period to build up any part of his own case, to tear down any part of his opposition's case, or to ascertain facts, such as the opposition's position on a certain issue, that can be used later in the debate. The questioner must confine himself to questions and not make statements, comments, or ask rhetorical questions.
7. Each speaker is questioned as soon as he concludes his constructive speech. The witness must answer the questions without consulting his colleagues.
8. No new constructive arguments may be introduced in the rebuttal period. The affirmative must, if possible, reply to the major negative arguments before the last rebuttal.
9. The judge must base his decision entirely on the material presented, without regard for other material which he may happen to possess.
10. Any gains made outside of the established procedure are disallowed.

Steps of Debate

Affirmative: argues the resolution – tries to prove it correct (Murder is acceptable)

Negative: argues against the resolution – tries to prove it incorrect (Murder is not acceptable)

Constructive Phase: each side will have 2 chances to construct their arguments

Cross-examination: each side will have a chance to question the other side after each constructive argument has been made

Rebuttal Phase: each side will have 2 chances to rebut the statements made by the other side and clear up any confusion surrounding their own arguments

Two teams, each team selects four speakers:

1-Constructive #1

2-Constructive #2

3-Rebuttal #1

4-Rebuttal #2

Phase:	Time Allowance:
Opening Statement and Affirmative Constructive #1	3 min.
Cross Examination	1.5 min.
Opening Statement and Negative Constructive #1	3 min.
Cross Examination	1.5 min.
Affirmative Constructive #2	3 min.
Cross Examination	1.5 min.
Negative Constructive #2	3 min.
Cross Examination	1.5 min.
Team Conference: Structure Rebuttal Arguments	5 min.
Negative Rebuttal #1	3 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal #1	3 min.
Negative Rebuttal #2 and Closing Statement	3 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal #2 and Closing Statement	3 min.