

Student Guidelines for Federalist/Antifederalist, 1/10/25

Resolution: The proposed US Constitution must be ratified because *<state your topic here in way that completes this sentence>*

Resolution: Be sure to state it correctly!					
Federalist			Antifederalist		
Ord		Min	Ord		Min
1.	Opening (3 points)	5m	3.	Opening (3 points)	5m
4.	Cross exam/1 st rebuttal (AF's opening)	5m	2.	Cross exam/1 st rebuttal (F's opening)	5m
5.	Closing/2 nd rebuttal (address all 6 points)	5m	6.	Closing/2 nd rebuttal (address all 6 points)	5m

Most of the generic guidelines for team debate will work except:

- General comments
 - You are a team of one. You must prepare the opening, cross-examination, and the closing.
 - The debate is a little simpler in that there are only 3 steps instead of 5. 1st and 2nd rebuttals are removed. See above table.
 - Must know Constitution! Each student must bring one to debate!
 - Each step is 5 minutes. You do NOT get the 6 or 8 minutes of the previous debates.
 - Only make 3 points in your opening. You may have sub-points, but only have three main points.
 - You speak to an audience, to convince them. They can never remember more than three points.
 - You will be allowed one minute between steps if you request it.
 - The Federalist team is always the affirmative since it is trying to get the Constitution ratified.
 - Do not refer to your audience as judges, etc. We are the representatives in a Ratification Convention and you are trying to convince us to ratify/not ratify the proposed Constitution. Address us accordingly.
 - You may only use historical arguments. Anything past 1789 is invalid. EG, you can't argue against the power of the presidency by referencing FDR.
 - Can bring up historical arguments that were before 1789. EG, Oliver Cromwell, The Prince, Hobbs.
 - You may make predictions of what will happen, and give the reasons why, but you cannot recommend ratification or rejection of Constitution because of what happened in the 1800s, 1900s, or 2000s. Federalist rebuttal: That will never happen bec the constitution does not allow it.
 - May bring up Biblical arguments.

- Both opening and closing speeches must be at least 4 minutes long. Any shorter and you automatically concede. The reason is that you should have MUCH more to say than can be said in 5 minutes. If you don't, please contact me and I'll help.
- If opponent slips and says something happens today, but they mean 20xx, attack them on it. "Today" is 1789.
- This is a persuasive speech. You are trying to convince others that your opinion on the point is correct.
- Quote federalist and antifederalist papers.
- Some debates are hard to win:
 - Bill of Rights: Anti-Federalists argue that we need BOR, F say no. This is hard to win.
 - Historically, BOR was only argument that AF won.
- 1 & 3: Opening
 - 4 – 5 minutes
 - Must state your name, greet the representatives, and state your topic
 - Must also explicitly appeal for ratification/rejection
- 2 & 4: Cross Examination
 - The CE (Cross-examination) is particularly crucial in this debate. Be aggressive. Use this time for 1st rebuttal (attacking your opponent's points).
 - Diff than team debate in that during rebuttal, both sides speak. Inquisitor still controls the floor.
 - The CE must address all three points that your opponent made in his opening.
 - Be passionate during the CE. You are arguing for the future of your country.
 - DO NOT ASK FOR OPPONENT'S POINTS!!!
 - DO NOT ASK OPPONENT TO MAKE HIS POINTS AGAIN.
 - WRITE DOWN OPPONENT'S POINTS SO YOU CAN ATTACK THEM!
 - Much of your debate grade will come from the CE step.
- 5 & 6: Closing
 - 4 – 5 minutes
 - Closing speech of less than 3 min is a concession speech. Automatically lose.
 - Be sure you use the close to remind us about the weaknesses of your opponent's arguments, plus also defend your points against his attacks (ie, 2nd rebuttal).
 - May add new quotes since this is also 2nd rebuttal.
 - **Must explicitly appeal for ratification/rejection.**

To prepare for debates:

- p277: Points you to places in Fed papers to get your arguments. Fed reads this and Antifed reads this, too. Fed book is very organized and easy to follow and look things up.
- Antifed arguments and book: very disorganized. Antifed and fed read this, too.
- All research in these two books.
- Many debates are very interrelated. Thus, read elsewhere in books to find other arguments. Read both books in their entirety, or use web search engine. Keyword example: "Stronger union"
- See links on assignment page.
- Can find F & AF papers online. Can search topics there. Don't just have to completely read both books.
- Most arguments on one topic will help other topics, too.
- Links on DT's web page. Also can just google fed and antifed.

For the federalist position:

- [Primary Documents in American History](#)
- [The Federalist Papers1](#)
- [The Federalist Papers2](#)
- Remember you must explain why the Articles of Confederation are insufficient to govern the country.
- Then you must explain not only that the new Constitution is "not dangerous," but that it is necessary.

For the Anti-Federalist position:

- [Primary Documents in American History](#)
- [What the Anti-Federalist Can Teach Us](#)
- [Liberty! The American Revolution](#)