

Generic Guidelines for Debates 2/19/15

Resolution: Be sure to state it correctly!					
Affirmative			Negative		
Ord		Min	Ord		Min
1.	Opening (5 points)	8m	3.	Opening (5 points)	8m
4.	Cross exam (N's opening)	5m	2.	Cross exam (A's opening)	5m
5.	1 st rebuttal (of N's opening)	5m	6.	1 st rebuttal (of A's opening)	5m
7.	2 nd rebuttal (of N's 1 st rebuttal)	5m	8.	2 nd rebuttal (of A's 1 st rebuttal)	5m
9.	Closing (address all 10 points)	6m	10.	Closing (address all 10 points)	6m

General comments:

- 3-4 students per team.
- 4 speeches: Intro (which is prepared ahead of time). Rest of speeches are prepared while debate is occurring.
- If two debates in the class (ie, 4 teams), the second pair of teams may NOT see the first debate. Once a pair of teams has debated, then they may watch subsequent debates. The reason for this is that students have watched debates before their own, but they complained loudly that is just confused them. They wish they had not watched the debate just before their own debate.
- I grade speeches. 2 or 3 other people judge the debate.
- Grade comes from speeches you gave, not whether your team won or lost.
- Be sure to fill up your whole speech time. If you don't, you haven't covered all the points you need to cover. Intro is 8 minutes. Everyone complains that this is not enough.
- Always remember judges are your primary audience. Make your eye contact with them.
- There will be an affirmative team, and a negative team.
- 4 speeches: Opening argument by affirming team.
- Each person on team must give a speech.
- If a team is so small that a person have to give two speeches. Best for him to give opening and 2nd rebuttal.
- This is a profession presentation. Smile, don't talk while speaker is talking, etc.
- Do not use excessive sarcasm (judicious use of it can be good, though).
- Always give reasons why your particular point is true. Always say something like, "This is true because..."
- Always quote authorities. Their analysis weighs much heavier than your analysis.
- Bring paper and pencils to debate. Computers/tablets, etc, are not allowed.
- DEBATE IS PRIMARILY LISTENING TO YOUR OPPONENT, NOT MAKING A SPEECH AT HIM OR THE JUDGES.

1. Affirmative opening argument:

- 5 points. Must have these, and must enumerate these! (My first point is..., My second point is..., etc) Judges will evaluate your points. If they don't know your points, they cannot score it.
- Must keep under 8 minutes. This will be VERY difficult. If you try to go over, you will be cut off. Minimum of 6 minutes.
- Almost always, someone who only speaks for 6 minutes will lose the debate.
- This is the only speech prepared ahead of time.
- May use first person.
- EG: Point number one is Election. Election is...
- Give each point a "tag line". Eg, first point is "Election". Give Scriptural references, quotes, etc. Must support it bec opponent will attack it.
- Team as a whole should identify the 5 points. The 1st speaker then must organize the speech.
- Must establish the definitions.
- Evidence: Must identify source of your assertion. Scripture. If theologian, must cite the commentary, name of theologian, etc. If definition, must give the book.
- Negative team: Write down A team's points so you can rebut them. These are the points on which the judge will judge the rest of the debate.

2. Negative: Cross examination.

- Clarify, challenge, put points on the table.
- 5 min.
- Ask questions to clarify points. EG, restate 4th point.
- Asking for evidence: A or N team may ask other team for evidence proof. For example, each quote must be on a separate note card. It must contain it's source, etc. The other team may request this. Be sure to have two copies of the evidence – one for you and one for opposing team. Unsubstantiated evidence is rejected.
- Challenge definitions if affirmative team defined a word that insures they win. Ask them their sources. Both teams must identify the source their terms
- Judge then gets to pick which side's definition is best.
- Negative team can challenge quote that affirmative team gives. EG, maybe the theologian of the quote actually changed his mind later in his life. Bring this up. Judge may give you this point.
- Points on the table: If A team conveniently left out a point that is actually quite weak, then at this point you can "tie" that point to an existing point they did make. You can simply ask about the weak point it in relation to one they already made. That way you will get to refute it later.

- If you don't have any challenges to the opposing team's evidence, or if you do, but still have some time left over, use this time to start your 1st rebuttal. For example, if you have a particularly strong line of attack on a point of the opposing team, go ahead and start questioning them about it. The main thing to remember is to not let the opposing team use your cross-examination to defend themselves. You need to drive the questions, and cut off the answers if the opposing team gets too long-winded.
- The N-team gets to drive the first cross-examination. They get to ask the questions. If the A-team answer gets off-topic, the N-team can simply (but nicely) insist they answer the question at hand. At this point the N-team should not let the A-team pepper them with questions.
- A-team: At this point do NOT let the N-team lecture you. Insist on the question.
- N-team: Don't let the A-team lecture you in the answer. Insist on an answer.
- The A-team gets to drive the second cross-examination, and the roles reverse. The A-team asks the questions and the N-team answers them.
- Be sure to use the whole time allotted to you. If you stop early, that will count against your debate grade. Remember, you may gain extra rebuttal time by starting in the cross-examination.
- Decide which questions various team members will be good at ahead of time. Dissention w/a team during CE looks bad to judges.

3. Negative: Opening.

- List your own 5 points. This is prepared ahead of time just like A team's opening. Not answers to A's team, but a list of new points.
- State resolution the way it is given, say you disagree with it, and then restate it to be what you want. It should be a positive statement rather than simply inserting a "not" in the original resolution.
- Most of your points should be positive, proving your own version of the resolution rather than simply trying to disprove the original resolution.
- 8 min

4. Affirmative: Cross examination.

- 60 sec prep.
- 5 min.
- Write ahead of time, anticipating N team's argument.
- Identify each point N team made, and counter it.

5. Affirmative: First Rebuttal:

- 60 sec prep if requested.
- 5 min
- Attack all points made by negative team.
- If you don't attack a point, then it is automatically awarded to other team.

- If N team address one of your points, but did not bring up a rebuttal that you want because it is a weak rebuttal, you can bring it up here and ask them what they think about it.
- 1st rebuttal (2nd speech). Prepare ahead of time by anticipating what other team will say.
- Inconsistency is what I count off for.
- Be sure that in your rebuttals you mention all the verses you want to use.
- Good idea to add new data to existing points, new quotes, etc. Don't simply rehash the quotes you have already used.
- DEBATE IS PRIMARILY LISTENING TO YOUR OPPONENT, NOT MAKING A SPEECH AT HIM OR THE JUDGES.

6. Negative: First Rebuttal

- 60 sec prep if requested.
- See notes on Affirmative 1st rebuttal.
- 5 min

7. Affirmative: 2nd rebuttal:

- 60 sec prep if requested.
- 5 min
- Attacks N's first rebuttal
- Tag lines help here to save time. Just mention the tag line w/o having to define point again.
- In rebutting a rebuttal, you may bring up more Scriptures or quotes that you had not previously used. May not add new points.

8. Negative: 2nd rebuttal

- 60 sec prep if requested
- 5 min

9. Affirmative: Closing arg.

- 3 min of prep.
- 6 min
- Name your first point, N team's rebuttal, A's answer. Do this for all points.
- Summary of 1st and 2nd rebuttal.
- Must mention all of your points, and all of your opponent's points.
- Appeal to judges to award debate to you.
- Can't bring up new evidence here.
- In closing, you may not add ANYTHING new. No new verses, no new points. Be sure that in your rebuttals you mention all the verses you want to use.

10. Negative: Closing arg.

- No prep.
- 6 min
- Can't bring up new evidence.

Scoring:

- Each side lists their 5 points.
- Each judge awards each side up to 5 points, depending on whether they think they successfully defended their points or not.
- If 3 judges, then there will be a max of 15 points per side.
- Also, each speech is graded by me. I am NOT grading the debate points.
- Winner of debate is one w/most points. In case of tie, points from speeches of each team are added in.
- Good grade if:
 - You enumerated your points.
 - You attacked all opponent's points.
- 2 grades:
 - Debate grade. No team grade. Each person gets his own grade. Diff people on same team may get diff grades. Did you do all the things you are supposed to for your portion? EG, supply all your team's points? refute all opponents points?
 - Speech grade.
- Grade will not come from judges' result. Grade will come from my analysis of whether student followed debate standards I gave. Grade also comes from speech grade.
- Tie on judges' points means win/lose can come down to speaker-points from speeches.

Timing:

- 30s left: Hand goes up
- 10s left: Hand opens and closes
- 5s left: Fingers count down
- 0s left: Must stop. If I beat you in saying "thank you, that's all", then you lose 2 speaker points on time and a point of conclusion (not closing).
- Each debate takes about 1:15.

Opening:

- Affirmative team MUST state resolution during opening.
- Every speech must include greetings to judges and audience. EG, "Greetings audience and judges. I will be presenting the <opening argument (or whatever)>".

- Resolution: "Eternal election is that process by which God selects some for salvation and others for destruction".
- Affirmative team: Must give definitions. Use common definition of words, not definitions that give your team an advantage. Otherwise, other team will challenge your definition, and convince the judges that your definition is wrong.
- Always enumerate your points here and in rebuttals, etc.
- Don't put evidence on note cards. Put on full sheet of paper. Don't staple anything because you will need to reorganize as opponents speak.
- Greet judges, rest of audience, give names of all on team, and then state resolution. Affirmative especially should define terms now. You cannot define them later.
- Be friendly, cordial. If you belittle your opponent, you could offend judge and thus lost points.
- Make 5 points.
- Be sure you enumerate your points every time you mention them, esp in opening argument. Judges need to have a handle on these points. VERY IMPORTANT.
- Make clear distinction between point and argument. "My first point is...". "My first piece of evidence is...". "My second piece of evidence is...".
- Say each point twice so that judge can write it down. If judge cannot write it down, then he will not be able to award you the win for that point.
- Once you explain the point, give a short "tag line" and use that tag line every time you want to refer to that point.
- Give support for point.
- Make judges' job easy. If they do not understand, then you lose points.
- If you don't give 5 points in opening, you cannot bring it up later. Judges will be instructed to score each team on 5 points, so each team MUST give 5 points.
- Normally, do not attack opponent's argument in opening. This might work in creation/evolution debate, but not here. If you do attack, you have to say, "My opponent usually tries to make the point..., but...".
- Only 8 minutes for opening arg.
- Neg team: State resolution in the affirmative, say you disagree w/it, and then give your own version of the resolution that agrees w/your team. If you agree w/definitions of affirm team, don't redefine them. Don't waste time. If you have an additional def that affirm team did not do, do it. Also, this is time to define a term differently if you disagree w/affirm team's definition. BE SURE TO STATE POINTS TWICE SO JUDGE CAN WRITE THEM DOWN. In conclusion of opening arg, restate points and your version of resolution.

Cross examinations:

- First rebuttalist should ask questions that pertain to him; second rebuttalist should ask questions that pertain to him, etc. One person should not be asking all the questions.

- Do not ask opposing team for their points. Since team cannot give judges their points on paper, even the opposing team should write them down when they are said. Esp if opposing team was obscure. If you ask opposing team for their points, then you give them another opportunity to make their opening argument.
- You must have your own evidence for your point, and you must have it cited. Opposing team can request your evidence. If the evidence is not properly cited, and you challenge it, it will be thrown out. If opposing team gives evidence in their opening argument, but they did not write it down, you can point that out and get that evidence thrown out. If your citation is from the internet, you must tell which respected university, professor, etc made the quote. Otherwise it can be challenged. Wikipedia is not allowed reference. Altho, Wikipedia is useful for research bec of their links to other useful pages.
- Any member of the asking team can ask the question, and any member of the responding team can answer. If you don't have an answer, say, "I don't have an answer, but I don't see the relevance of the question at all".
- If opposing team avoids a weak point you really want to attack, ask them about this point – isn't it traditionally a point your team would use. By bringing it up in CE, you can then make an argument against it in rebuttal. Esp if you can tie it to an existing point the opponents have made. If they try the same approach against you, say it's simply not one of the five you chose to use.
- You don't have to challenge each evidence from opponent. You can say opponent 's arguments are irrelevant, and then present your own evidence that refutes opponent's point.
- If opponents tries to give a long answer to a question during CE, you may cut them off at any time.
- You are in control during your cross examination. You may stop the other team's rambling at any point. Normally you should not let them ask questions.
- You should only ask questions for which you already know the answers. Main goal of this step is to "make the other team squirm".
- Exception: When you need clarification on a point that was vague or unclear. Word question in such a way that you imply to the judges that your opponents point was quite vague and you are trying to clarify. You should avoid, if possible, "I didn't get point so-and-so, please repeat".
- Mini-debate if you have a point you want to refute, but opponent did not bring it up. You must tie the point you want to attack to an existing point opponent has made. Esp good when they made a point you are not prepared to debate.

Rebuttals:

- My first rebuttal attacks their opening points. Be sure to present them in same order that opponent lists them.

- If one team brings up a quote or passage of Scripture, the other must dispute the interpretation of that same passage, or the judge will award the point to the first team!!! It is insufficient to simply throw up other passages.
- Your second rebuttal answers their attacks against your opening points. Be sure to answer points in order that opponent answered them.
- If opponent did not bring up a weak point that you want to refute, you may ask them point-blank what they think of it. If they acknowledge it, then you can refute it. If they "no comment", then it implies that is a good argument against them.
- How to write the first rebuttal (before you ever get to the debate) since you will have to write the final form during the debate.
 - First, write opposing team's opening argument. Include 8 or more points since you don't know which 5 they are going to use.
 - For each point, write out a response.
 - Each point w/rebuttal is on 1 sheet of paper.
 - At debate, number each of the points you have, number them as the opposing team presents them.
 - Take notes on each paper that is specific to actual opening of opposing team. EG, if they use a diff verse or quote, write it down.
 - If opposing team brings up a new point that you do not have, it will probably match up w/parts of several of your other points. Organize them together.
 - Sometimes you have to bluff if they use a point you have no info on. If you can say the verse they used was similar to one you have rebutted, do that.
 - Whole team works together, giving your speaker the info they need.
 - If you do not answer a point, judge automatically gives the win to the opposing team for it.
 - 5 min speech.
- How to write second rebuttal.
 - Before debate: Write responses to each possible rebuttal ahead of time.
 - After opposing team's first rebuttal speech: Gather together all the points they use (from what you wrote down before the debate ever started), and your rebuttal of their rebuttal.
 - 5 min speech
 - If a speaker has to give two speeches, opening speech ties very well w/2nd rebuttal.
- A lot of students want to give opening argument speech since that is written out ahead of time, and practiced. They don't like the 1st and 2nd rebuttals since the speeches are made up on the fly. However, this is not correct. Even the first and second rebuttals should be prewritten and practiced.
- While listening to opponent's opening argument, find the page you wrote down ahead of time that matches their point. Write down their point number and tag line on it. If nothing you have exactly matches, pull out the one or two pages

that are closest, and mark up the sheet so that you can use it. Put these sheets in the order of the opponent's argument. You will have to shift stuff around when they say something that does not exactly match. For example, if they use a supporting evidence that they have not written down (even if it is properly cited in speech), and it is challenged, it will be thrown out.

- What happens if opponent makes a point you have not prepared? Listen for their evidence. See if it matches evidence for another of your points. Clarify during cross-examination. During cross-examination, reword it in such a way that you want to rebut it.
- If opponent makes a point that you have not prepared, but is also goofy, don't ask them what the point was. During cross-exam, ask them the relevance of the point, or ask them if their point actually supports your side.
- When opponent's first rebuttal is given, note which of your defenses you need to use. Pull your sheets as opponents are making their rebuttals. Make speeches you have already prepared. If opponent does not address one of your points **BE SURE YOU NOTE THAT IN 2ND REBUTTAL**, and thank opponent for conceding the point.
- Gauge your time on each point based upon how much time the opponent uses to attack it. Less time for attack, less time for rebuttal.
- The only on-the-fly during the debate is not writing a speech, but simply organizing your material.
- 1st rebuttalist
 - MUST attack all 5 opponent points. If he does not, the opponent automatically wins it. You cannot later address this point later. **IT IS LOST.**
 - If opposing team does not mention all 5 of their own points in their opening, rebuttalist should bring this out so that the judges realize this.
 - Do not mention your own team's points. You are rebutting the opponent's points.
 - Mention all points that opponents left out.
- 2nd rebuttalist:
 - MUST defend all your team's 5 points. If you don't, you give it back to opponent.
 - If you forget to defend a point, it is lost. Closer cannot "reinstate it".
 - Mention all points that opponents left out.

Closing:

- How to write closing:
 - You have 3 minutes to prepare.
 - Speech is 6 min.
 - You mention all your opening points. Show how opposing team's rebuttal of each of your points were ineffective.

- You mention all opponent's opening points. Show how they were unable to refute your rebuttal of each point.
- Must mention your own 5 points. If you do not, your team loses that point even if it was presented well in the previous arguments.
 - Present your strongest arg for each point.
 - Present your strongest arg against their rebuttal.
- Must mention opponent's 5 points.
 - Present your strongest arg against.
 - Rebut their defense
- Mention all points that opponents left out.

Presenting evidence.

- Scripture itself. Always read Scripture to judges and tell meaning.
- Commentators on Scripture (not just my interpretation).
- Opposing team can ask for copy of your evidence during cross-examination only. Don't need to give written text of Scripture since opposing team should have it. But any commentators you should have a copy of. Each evidence on separate paper.

Speech content:

1. Open (A-team):
 - Greet judges, audience
 - Introduce self, each team member
 - Announce debate topic, and your position
 - Definitions
 - Greet judges very first thing!
2. Cross exam (N-team):
 - N-team asks, A-team answers.
 - If A-team asks, N-team can say we're asking questions, or we don't have time for that, etc.
3. Open (N-team):
 - Greet judges, audience
 - Introduce self, each team member
 - Announce original resolution as given, say you disagree w/it, and then give your own version of the resolution that agrees w/your team.
 - Definitions: If you agree w/definitions of affirm team, don't redefine them. Don't waste time. If you have an additional def that affirm team did not do, do it. Also, this is time to define a term differently if you disagree w/affirm team's definition.
4. Cross exam (A-team). Can ask for 1 min prep.
5. 1st rebuttal (A-team). Can ask for 1 min prep.

6. 1st rebuttal (N-team). Can ask for 1 min prep.
 7. 2nd rebuttal (A-team). Can ask for 1 min prep.
 8. 2nd rebuttal (N-team). Can ask for 1 min prep.
 9. Close (A-team). Give three min prep here.
 10. Close (N-team). No prep time here.
- Be sure to look up to see hand signals
 - Keep hands apart when speaking so that you can gesture!
 - Judges are primary audience. Address argument to them since they determine win/lose.
 - Part of winning debate is presentation, esp if both teams are otherwise equal. If both are roughly equal, but one team is clean cut, nice and the other a slob and cruel, then the beautiful team will win.
 - Appropriate facial expressions important.
 - Remember to give tag line. Use it frequently and give the point number.
 - If you do two speeches, good pairing is opening and second rebuttal.
 - Since judge might miss the fact that a team left out a point, speakers need to bring this out.
 - Just bec your team left out a point, don't assume judge or other team realized this. Continue to make the point and hope that no one notices.

Research:

- Affirm team: Very important: After researching affirm side, then do same research for neg side. Team should debate itself using both sides.
- Neg team: Do same thing.
- During research time before debate, team should listen to opening arg and critique it. In fact, they should help to construct speech, find points, refine which points to use, etc.
- Later (after class), team will get together again,
 - decide your opening points
 - list as many opposing points as possible
 - list as many rebutting points against your opening points as possible.
 - list as many answers to those rebutting points as possible.
 - (possibly) reassign speeches to different people (if necessary).
- Then, each student goes home and writes their speeches.
- Teams should meet as much as necessary. If there are two affirmative and two negative teams, then each affirmative team may choose to meet together to compare notes and do a mock debate. Same for negative teams.
- Team researches the affirmative & negative, and debates itself. All speeches are well-prepared, practiced, etc. Team then selects members to represent them. When team comes to debate they don't know which side they will defend until judge tells them. This is the way it should work.

- In research, make a list of all points that affirmative side can make, and make list that negative side can make. Then decide which points are the best 5 for your side. Take the best five and find all the supports for those points. This is not an individual effort. Everyone does this research. Then get back together, put together the best support, and then assign someone to make a speech from them. Next, take the opposing list (which will hopefully be more than 5 points) and make a rebuttal for each point. Each rebuttal point should be on one page. Make a 1-minute speech for each rebuttal point. When you actually are in the debate, simply string together the 5 points that the opponents use.
- You must have your own evidence for your point, and you must have it cited. Opposing team can request your evidence. If the evidence is not properly cited, and it is challenged, it will be thrown out. If your citation is from the internet, you must tell which respected university, professor, etc made the quote. Otherwise it can be challenged. Wikipedia is not allowed reference. Altho, Wikipedia is useful for research bec of their links to other useful pages.
- In preparation, determine at least two lines of attack on each of your points. Then, determine how to defend each attack. Write each attack and your rebuttal on 1 sheet of paper. Write speech and rehearse. Make sure that even if they list all lines of attack you have discovered, you can make 2nd rebuttal speech in 5 minutes.
- Skype can be VERY helpful.

Dress:

- Girls in dresses or blouse/skirts.
- Guys required to wear shirt and tie! No coats required, but if one wears it, all on team are required.