

DEBATE PROCEDURES

Everyone loves to share their opinions about controversial topics, but in a formal debate, your goal is to persuade the members of the audience that your side of the argument is the most worthy. The focus is more about your skills of persuasion than about the discussion of interesting topics, as in a Socratic Seminar. To “win”, you simply have to be more convincing than the other team.

In a debate, you do not necessarily have to believe the side for which you will be arguing. Remember, the goal is simply to be more persuasive than your opponents. So long as you can provide enough supporting evidence for your case, and speak with the most confidence and coherence you can, it doesn't matter what your true beliefs on the topic are.

For these debates on Globalization, you will NOT be notified of which side you will be arguing on your given topic until the day of the debate. Therefore, you must prepare BOTH sides, and be equally confident of your ability to argue the case for either side.

How to build an argument:

1. After you have received a topic and a partner, sit down together and begin to gather materials on the topic. Use the Opposing Viewpoints database through the AES Library.
2. Read what you can to give yourself a basic understanding of the concepts involved in this topic, and of the controversy that surrounds it. Be sure to read both sides of the argument.
3. Together, lay out the basic defense to support each side. You may wish to use the outline provided to help you.
4. Gather as much specific evidence from the articles as you can that will help you in your persuasion. Just like in writing essays, statistics, direct quotes and expert opinions can be your most valuable evidence.
5. Try to figure out what the other team will be planning for their defense and guess what evidence they may use to support it.
6. Decide how you will counter each point and piece of evidence that your opponents will use.
7. Now formalize it all:
 - In what way should all of your evidence be presented so that it is the MOST convincing? Typically, the strongest points are reserved for the end. KEEP YOUR POINTS CLEAR, SUCCINCT, AND ORGANIZED. Would index cards be easier to manipulate?
 - Who will say what?
 - What kind of opening will capture the attention & interest of your audience? Are there any terms that will need to be defined?
 - How can you best refute the case your opponents will make with positive arguments of your own?
 - How can you craft a closing statement with maximum punch?

- Conduct time rehearsals at home. Use your full time!

THE FORMAT: Time guidelines will be strictly observed.

1. **CHAIR:** Introduces the speakers and the proposition.

2. **FIRST SPEAKER FOR THE AFFIRMATIVE (PRO) SIDE: (2 minutes)** Gives summary of affirmative argument and presents some of the weaker points with supporting evidence.

3. **FIRST SPEAKER FOR THE NEGATIVE (CON) SIDE: (2 minutes)**

Does all the same things that the First Speaker for the Affirmative does, then also raises questions about the affirmative position.

4. **SECOND SPEAKER FOR THE AFFIRMATIVE SIDE: (2 minutes)** Summarizes the argument presented so far for BOTH sides, and tries to explain superiority of their own side. Must answer any questions raised by the negative side. Finally, should present the strongest point for the affirmative with appropriate supporting evidence.

5. **SECOND SPEAKER FOR THE NEGATIVE SIDE: (2 minutes)**

Does all the same things as the second affirmative speaker, paying special attention to attacking what s/he said.

6. **BREAK:** 2 minutes to prepare rebuttal

7. **REBUTTAL-AFFIRMATIVE SIDE (1 minute)**

Referring to specific points in your opponents' speeches, refute their evidence with counter-examples and counter-reasoning

8. **REBUTTAL-NEGATIVE SIDE (1 minute)** Same.

9. **CLOSING STATEMENT-AFFIRMATIVE SIDE (1 minute)**

Summarize main points and describe superior logic involved in a vote for your side

10. **CLOSING STATEMENT-NEGATIVE SIDE (1 minute)** Same.

11. **AUDIENCE WILL VOTE AND CHAIR WILL ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS.**

12. **APPLAUD THE GOOD JOB THE SPEAKERS HAVE ALL DONE, REGARDLESS OF RESULTS!**

The Topics:

Globalization helps developing countries.

Globalization benefits the environment

Globalization is harmful to human rights.