

ACADEMIC DEBATE



Content

- ▣ Academic debates
- ▣ Rules
- ▣ Formats
- ▣ Speeches
- ▣ Addressing
- ▣ Judging

Academic Debate

- ▣ The purest form of debate
- ▣ No embellishments, merely speeches:
 - No Parliamentary interruptions
 - No heckling (unless specifically permitted)
 - No opportunity to question or be questioned (unless permitted)

Heckling

- ▣ When to Heckle
 - To relieve seriousness of the debate
 - To underline weakness of fact or reasoning

- ▣ How to Handle Heckling
 - To prevent it
 - To respond with more humor
 - To ignore

Worlds Style Points of Information

- ▣ Used at the Worlds Schools Debating Championships
- ▣ Not recommended for novice debaters
- ▣ Raised only between the first and final minute of a constructive speech
- ▣ Take the form of question or remark
- ▣ Must be brief

Rule # 1

- ▣ Debaters take sides
 - Affirmative
 - Negative
- ▣ Resolution
 - No middle ground; either true or false

Rule # 2

- ▣ Debaters take turns
 - Oxford format
 - Cambridge format
 - Lincoln-Douglas format

Oxford format

- ▣ 1st Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (constructive & rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Aff (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Neg (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Aff (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Neg (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 1st Aff (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes

Complaints of rule violations, misquotations, etc. by either team.

Cambridge format

- ▣ 1st Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 1st Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes

Complaints of rule violations, misquotations, etc. by either team.

LD format

- ▣ Affirmative 6 minutes
- ▣ Negative Cross-examination 3 minutes
- ▣ Negative 7 minutes
- ▣ Positive CX 3 minutes
- ▣ Affirmative 4 minutes
- ▣ Negative 6 minutes
- ▣ Affirmative 3 minutes

- ▣ 5 minutes preparation time

Constructive speech

- ▣ The affirmative
 - May define resolution
 - Should state the importance of the resolution and the values it contains
 - Should present reasonable arguments to support the values
- ▣ Negative
 - May dispute the affirmative definitions
 - Should attack both the values and the affirmative's interpretation and defense
 - May present new values

The Rebuttals

- ▣ New evidence to support old arguments
- ▣ The affirmative must reply before the last rebuttal
- ▣ The responsibility of the speaker to defend and to attack

Cross examination

- ▣ Form of questions and answers
- ▣ Clarification of an obscure point
- ▣ Attitude reasonable, cooperative, eager to please
- ▣ Admissions or information must be used in subsequent speeches
- ▣ Reasonable length

Rule # 3

- ▣ No Moving Targets
 - Every single argument that Affirmative wants to make must be made in the first speech
 - No adding of new arguments in later speeches
 - Same for Negative
 - Development of arguments

Addressing

- ▣ In third person by the position
- ▣ Opening
 - Mr. Moderator
 - Honorable judges
 - Worthy opponents
 - Ladies and gentlemen

Judging

- ▣ Based upon:
 - Skill in analysis
 - Use of evidence
 - Validity of evidence
 - Validity of argument
 - Clarity of organization
 - Effectiveness of delivery
 - Strength and conviction

May the best win

- ▣ Single-sex schools are good for education
- ▣ Reality television does more harm than good
- ▣ University education should be free
- ▣ Mothers should stay at home and look after their children

Thank you for your attention!

- ▣ Filiter, John D. "An Introduction to Academic Debate." (2004): n. pag. Web
- ▣ RULES OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
- ▣ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GINVeAfcvyQ>
- ▣ http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/jbruschke/theory_and_practice_in_academic_.htm