**Debate**

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Your group and the group you will be debating will mutually agree upon a topic and what side you will be arguing. Your team needs to be organized as to not have one dominant speaker, since each person must talk at least four times to be eligible for full credit. The four talking points must be worthwhile and add to the actual debate. If a participant talks during the Opening argument, then the talking point will only count once. (Even if they spoke at two separate points during the Opening.) This is true for the Closing too. Therefore, a participant will have to speak a minimum of two times during the Crossfire. If your teams not currently debating, then you are a judge. The debate format is as follows:

Opening Pro (2 minutes)

-More than one person can talk during this portion. Typically if more than two people talk during the Opening, then it becomes confusing.

-The format is the same to the two minute Oral Argument. (Reference that page if you need assistance)

Opening Con (2 minutes)

-Same as Pro

Crossfire (15 minutes)

-Pro starts the Crossfire.

-Each participant may only speak for a maximum of 1 minute.

-If a member of a team starts to speak, then no one else on the team may add to the team members’ statement.

-The opposing team may only talk at the conclusion of the other teams minute or if they finish early.

-Each team presents points back and forth until the 15 minute time limit is complete

-A team may pass if they do not have anything to say at any given point.

-The goal of the Crossfire is to dominate with your side’s arguments and points. Try not to be on the defensive, only when necessary.

Conclusion Pro (2 minutes)

- More than one person can talk during this portion. Typically if more than two people talk during the Conclusion, then it becomes confusing.

- The format is the similar to the two minute Oral Argument. (Reference that page if you need assistance)

-The primary difference is the Conclusion must present only Arguments discussed in the debate. If a topic was not discussed in the Crossfire, then it should not be in the Conclusion.

-Therefore, the Conclusion should constantly be evolving as the debate is progressing.

-A general shell can be completed before the debate starts; however, the primary content should be formulated during the debate.

-The conclusion should stress your side’s key points and reference some counterarguments made during the Crossfire. However, the focus should be primarily on your key points. (This is why it is important to stay on the offensive during the debate.)

Conclusion Con (2 minutes)

-Same as Pro