

# Oxford-Style Debate

## Preparation:

1. Students will research the topic and, using reliable sources, write a 3 minute prepared statement. Coordinate your statement with teammates in advance and practice delivering it! **Do not simply read your statement to the class.**
2. Students will create an annotated bibliography (10 sources *minimum* for the team). All sources must be reliable.

## Guidelines for Debaters:

- 1) Each member of the team must participate equally.
- 2) Each team must demonstrate thorough research and will turn in a summary including bibliography at the beginning of the debate. (Late bibliographies will NOT be accepted.)
- 3) Each team member must turn in their individual prepared statement after the debate.
- 4) Sources must be cited during the debate.
- 5) Each team must adhere to the format and guidelines as described below.
- 6) Teams will be judged on understanding of topic, quality of evidence, and persuasiveness.
- 7) Each debate will last 46 minutes.
- 8) Points will be deducted from teams with tardy or absent members.
- 9) An absent student will receive NO POINTS.

## Guidelines for Audience:

Before the debate, the audience will write down their overall stance on the topic (for or against). Audience members should take notes on what they learned and, at the end of the debate, write down something they've learned and, again, their overall stance on the topic (for or against). Note: saying you didn't learn anything is not acceptable.

## Debate Format

1. Secret ballot of the audience on the overall topic. Votes will be tallied, but results will not be revealed until after the debate.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> supporting speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. A good introduction that attracts the audiences attention and interest in the topic
  - b. Should include a complete response in support of the proposition.
  - c. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> opposing speaker (CON) - 3 minutes
  - a. A good introduction that attracts the audiences attention and interest in the topic
  - b. Should include a complete response in opposition of the proposition.
  - c. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> supporting speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in support of sub-topic A. Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

5. 2<sup>nd</sup> opposing speaker (CON) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in opposition of sub-topic A. Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

2<sup>nd</sup> PRO speaker asks a question to CON. Only one person on CON team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

2<sup>nd</sup> CON speaker asks a question to PRO. Only one person on PRO team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

6. 3<sup>rd</sup> supporting speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in support of sub-topic B . Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

7. 3<sup>rd</sup> opposing speaker (CON) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in opposition of sub-topic B . Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

3<sup>rd</sup> PRO speaker asks a question to CON. Only one person on CON team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

3<sup>rd</sup> CON speaker asks a question to PRO. Only one person on PRO team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

8. 4<sup>th</sup> supporting speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in support of sub-topic C . Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

9. 4<sup>th</sup> opposing speaker (CON) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include a complete response in opposition of sub-topic C . Response should provide a different angle than the first speaker, or serve as an elaboration on the first speaker's speech.
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

4<sup>th</sup> PRO speaker asks a question to CON. Only one person on CON team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

4<sup>th</sup> CON speaker asks a question to PRO. Only one person on PRO team can answer. That person is not allowed to answer any more questions - 2 minute

10. 5<sup>th</sup> supporting speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include the closing summary and statements of the group
  - b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

11. 5<sup>th</sup> opposing speaker (PRO) - 3 minutes
  - a. Should include the closing summary and statements of the group

- b. Speech should make use of facts, statistics, and anecdotes as supporting evidence.

Questions from the audience – 4 minutes

- c. Audience members ask questions that either:
  - i. Serve to gather more information for making a decision or
  - ii. Challenge the arguments of one side
- d. Questions may only be addressed by group members who have not responded to previous questions.

12. Final secret vote of the audience.

