

Debate Format

Round 1:

First Proposition Constructive (3 Minutes)

The first proposition speaker uses this speech to introduce the motion, provide an interpretation of the motion, and outline the major arguments for his/her side. This speech is the foundation of the entire debate.

First Opposition Constructive (3 Minutes)

It is the role of the speaker to both engage arguments from the previous speech and give new arguments to advance the opposition case.

Round 2:

Second Proposition Constructive (3 Minutes)

The nature of this speech resembles the first opposition constructive. This is the last chance for the proposition to introduce new arguments. First, the speaker should give a brief summary of the proposition arguments brought up earlier in the debate. Then, the speaker should engage in line-by-line refutation. The speech should end with a relevant conclusion that informs the judges about the major issues of the debate.

Second Opposition Constructive (3 Minutes)

This is the last chance for the opposition to present new arguments. A second opposition speaker can continue line by line refutation, advance new arguments to the case, add depth to previous arguments, and engage in analysis about which arguments are important, inconsistent, or unimportant to the resolution of the debate.

Round 3:

Proposition Rebuttal (1.5 Minutes)

This is the final speech in the debate. This speaker should answer arguments brought up in both the second opposition constructive and the opposition rebuttal speeches. Using the critical issues of the debate, the speech should culminate in a few independent proofs about why the proposition side has won the debate.

Opposition Rebuttal (1.5 Minutes)

This speaker must identify a few important issues and use these as independent proofs about why the opposition should win. It is impossible to use all points brought up during the debate. No new arguments are allowed at this point in the debate. The speaker should take care that he or she does not simply repeat what was said in the second opposition constructive speech.