

For **PREPARED** Debates

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, WRITE THE EXACT RESOLUTION AND THE NAMES OF ALL DEBATERS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL SPEAK ON A BLACKBOARD CLEARLY VISIBLE TO ALL THE JUDGES. INSTRUCT DEBATERS NOT TO REVEAL WHERE THEY ARE FROM. ASK EACH JUDGE WHETHER HE OR SHE NEEDS A PAUSE OF UP TO ONE MINUTE BETWEEN SPEECHES TO MAKE NOTES FOR SCORING. CHECK TO SEE THAT THE JUDGES ARE SEATED IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AND THAT ALL DEBATERS AND OFFICIALS ARE READY. ASK ALL PERSONS PRESENT TO BE SEATED AND THEN PROCEED.

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE

There are several important rules which apply to all styles of debating, namely:

Except when the negative team introduces a Counter-Plan, the affirmative bears the burden of proof; if it fails to discharge this onus (for example, in the case of a tie), the team bearing the burden of proof loses.

[Other than in a mock criminal trial,] the standard of proof required is "on the balance of probabilities".

Except for illegal remarks and comments about other debaters, speakers may say anything they wish. Judges will ignore remarks irrelevant to the resolution, however, and will decide how much weight each argument, question and item of evidence deserves.

Real evidence may be introduced but thereafter becomes available for use by opponents.

Factual assertions by debaters must be accurate and speakers must be prepared to cite authority for all such assertions. The penalty for fabrication or falsification of evidence, or failure to document evidence when challenged, is immediate disqualification, though reasonable imagination and role-playing are permitted.

The affirmative must define the resolution in its first speech and the negative must dispute definitions in its first speech if it intends to do so at all. If the affirmative neglects to define terms, the right to do so reasonably passes to the negative.

In all prepared debates on propositions of policy except in Cross-Examination, the affirmative must present a Plan. Plans and Counter-Plans must be introduced by the first speaker for the team proposing them and be completely described before the team's last speech.

Rebuttal may take place at any time, but no new constructive argument or evidence may be introduced during a final affirmative rebuttal.

Except for heckling, debaters must stand to speak [, question and answer].

Speeches may not be read, though reasonable reference to notes is permitted.

Memorization will be penalized if it results in stilted delivery and excessive repetition will also cost a debater points.

Debaters must always be courteous to one another and may not disrupt opponents' speeches in any manner.

There is to be no coaching of debaters after the contest begins and debaters must not communicate with or prompt a colleague who is speaking.

As Moderator, I am to preside impartially; my rulings cannot be appealed but I ask the Judges to try to compensate the victims of any mistakes that I may make.

For **IMPROMPTU** Debates

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SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE

There are several important rules which apply to all styles of debating, namely:

Except when the negative team introduces a Counter-Plan, the affirmative bears the burden of proof; if it fails to discharge this onus (for example, in the case of a tie), the team bearing the burden of proof loses.

[Other than in a mock criminal trial,] the standard of proof required is "on the balance of probabilities".

Except for illegal remarks and comments about other debaters, speakers may say anything they wish. Judges will ignore remarks irrelevant to the resolution, however, and will decide how much weight each argument, question and item of evidence deserves.

Real evidence may be introduced but thereafter becomes available for use by opponents.

Factual assertions by debaters must be accurate, though speakers are not expected to cite authority for all such assertions, as they would be in a prepared debate. The penalty for fabrication or falsification of evidence is immediate disqualification, though reasonable imagination and role-playing are permitted.

The affirmative must define the resolution in its first speech and the negative must dispute definitions in its first speech if it intends to do so at all. If the affirmative neglects to define terms, the right to do so reasonably passes to the negative.

Since this is impromptu debating, no Plan is required of the affirmative. If a Plan or Counter-Plan is introduced, it must be introduced by the first speaker for the team proposing it and be completely described before the team's last constructive speech.

Rebuttal may take place at any time, but no new constructive argument or evidence may be introduced during a final affirmative rebuttal.

Except for heckling, debaters must stand to speak [, question and answer].

Speeches may not be read, though reasonable reference to notes is permitted.

Memorization will be penalized if it results in stilted delivery and excessive repetition will also cost a debater points.

Debaters must always be courteous to one another and may not disrupt opponents' speeches in any manner.

There is to be no coaching of debaters after the contest begins and debaters must not communicate with or prompt a colleague who is speaking.

As Moderator, I am to preside impartially; my rulings cannot be appealed but I ask the Judges to try to compensate the victims of any mistakes that I may make.