FORMAL DEBATE STRUCTURE

The following is an outline/schedule for the in-class formal debates. Please do a run through of your opening and closing statements to make sure that they fall under the right time frame. There will be a coin toss to see which team goes first.

1) Team A presents their opening statement (3 minutes)
2) Team B presents their opening statement (3 minutes)
3) Team A presents their rebuttal (2 minutes)
4) Team B presents their rebuttal (2 minutes)
5) Team A asks 2 questions and the opposition answers (5 minutes)
6) Team B asks 2 questions and the opposition answers (5 minutes)
7) Closing statement (2 minutes)
8) Closing statement (2 minutes)
9) 3 questions from the audience who may ask either debate team questions (5 minutes)

*It is up to your debate team to decide who wants to take on what specific roles. You can assign each individual a role based on each person's special skills, abilities and interests. (For example: Someone who thinks quickly on their feet would be the best person to do the rebuttal). Or perhaps you would both like to contribute and share equally in each section of the debate (For example: Each person reads a part of the opening statement). What is important, however, is that every person contributes and participates equally.
OPENING STATEMENT ORGANIZER

For your debate, make sure that your opening statement paragraph includes:

1. A powerful hook that grabs the audience (quote, question, statistic etc.)
2. A statement in which you clearly identify your position in the debate
3. A MINIMUM of 3 arguments to support your position, each argument backed up by powerful evidence and facts that are cited
4. A concluding sentence or powerful statement that summarizes your position again in a different or interesting way.
5. CITE ALL OF YOUR EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH (who/which study/publication date)

Powerful Hook:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Our topic sentence that clearly defines our position in the debate:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

ARGUMENT #1

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Evidence for argument #1 (statistics/research/related laws)
*provide a minimum of 2 different lines of evidence that support your argument

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
ARGUMENT #2

Evidence for argument #2 (statistics/research/related laws)

*provide a minimum of 2 different lines of evidence/research that support your argument and cite all of your sources

ARGUMENT #3

Evidence for argument #3 (statistics/research/related laws)

*provide a minimum of 2 different lines of evidence/research that support your argument and cite all of your sources
POWERFUL CONCLUDING STATEMENT/SUMMARY:
DEBATE REBUTTAL ORGANIZER

The best way to prepare for the most challenging component of the debate, the rebuttal, is to try and guess what other team is going to try and argue to support their position. Once you have guessed what they might argue, try to come up with some counter-arguments that weaken their position. On the following sheet, write down 3 arguments that you think the other team will use in the debate, and provide an argument against each one with powerful evidence. This may be used as a back-up during the rebuttal component of the debate to help your side!

1) We think the other side might try to argue that:

_____________________________________________________

To weaken their position, we will argue/state:

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

2) We think the opposition might try to argue that:

_____________________________________________________

To weaken their position, we will argue/state:

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

3) We think the opposition might try to argue that:

_____________________________________________________

To weaken their position, we will argue/state:

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________
QUESTION COMPONENT OF THE DEBATE

In the question component of the debate, you will have the opportunity to ask 2 questions of the opposition in order to test the strength of their platform and their ability to defend their position on the spot. Your questions should be designed in order to weaken or poke holes in the opposition's argument. A good debate question will often contain a line of powerful evidence that is hard to disprove, which leads into a question.

Here is an example of a powerful question on the debate issue of capital punishment:

According to a longitudinal U.S. study on the death penalty, 14,000 American citizens have been wrongly executed for crimes they did not commit since 1984. If you bring the death penalty to Canada, how can you guarantee that this won't happen in our country?

1) QUESTION #1

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2) QUESTION #2

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
CLOSING STATEMENT

Your closing statement should summarize all of your main points and arguments. It should also connect your debate position to the bigger picture. For example, how does supporting your position benefit people and greater society as a whole? It is your last chance to sell your argument and convince the audience that your position is the right one! Try to make your last line a powerful impact statement. Quote? Emotional plea? Powerful image?

That's all Folks!
# Debate Teams Sign Up Sheet

(max. 3 people per side per debate)

## Topic One:

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<th>Affirmative (I agree!)</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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## Topic Two:

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## Topic Three:

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## Topic Four:

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