

Name: _____

TOPIC: _____

PARAGRAPH 1

Opening Statement: _____

PARAGRAPH 2

Main Idea: _____

Details and Examples:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Connecting to Paragraph 3: _____

PARAGRAPH 3

Main Idea: _____

Details and Examples:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Connecting to Paragraph 4: _____

Name: _____

PARAGRAPH 4

Main Idea: _____

Details and Examples:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Connecting to Paragraph 5/Defending My Position: _____

PARAGRAPH 5/Defending My Position

Main Idea: _____

Defending My Position:

Argument A: _____

Argument B: _____

Argument C: _____

Connecting to Paragraph 6/Conclusion: _____

PARAGRAPH 6/Conclusion

Summary Statement: _____

Concluding Statement: _____

Introduction

Formal debating requires four team members, two on each side, who present opposing points of view on the same controversial resolution in an attempt to convince their audience of their perspective.

Affirmative Team Member 1

Negative Team Member 1

Debate

Affirmative Team Member 2

Negative Team Member 2

Debate versus Discussion

It is important to recognize the differences between a discussion and a formal debate. The following chart will help you to recognize the similarities and differences.

Discussion

Emotional discussion

Students **work together**

Participants are **able to change**
Their point of view as new information
is presented.

A problem or a concern

Goal is to find a **compromise**

Order of speaking is **unstructured**

Flexible time limits for speaking

Informal conversation

Debate

Factual discussion

Teams **compete** against each other

Debaters **argue from one**
perspective- either affirmative
Or negative

A formal resolution on
a controversial issue

Goal is to **persuade** the audience

Order of speaking is very **structured**

Limited/structured time allotments

Formal persuasive conversation

Formal Debating Format (cont'd)

A unit for Grades 7&8

Resolution

Choose a controversial topic with two clearly opposing sides. A resolution generally is asking for a change. Write the resolution using the following format:

Be it resolved that...

Example: topic – the development of the Canadian railroad

Affirmative: Be it resolved that Canada should build a railroad from sea to sea.

Negative: Be it resolved that Canada should not build a railroad from sea to sea.

Please see *BLM 1.3* for some topic suggestions.

Debate Format

A formal debate consists of the following components: Statement of Resolution, Constructive Speeches, Cross Examinations and a Rebuttal.

Statement of Resolution

One member from each team presents their side's resolution using the phrase: be it resolved that...

Constructive Speech

Each member presents a constructive speech at some point during the debate. The purpose of these speeches is to present clearly and concisely the arguments from each side. A constructive speech should include the following:

- an introduction that addresses the audience and the Speaker
- a clear statement of the resolution
- 3-4 strong arguments supporting the resolution
- research, quotes, facts, statistics, etc. that support the arguments
- evidence of sources used
- a conclusion where the resolution is clearly stated again

Cross Examination

The purpose of the cross-examination is for the opposing team to have the opportunity to present some of their findings that may disprove, undermine or question the other team's constructive speech/arguments. A cross-examination should include the following:

- be sure to use opposing facts, statistics and research to put the other team's arguments in question
- try to disprove the other team's arguments
- expose areas/arguments that are weak

Formal Debating Format (Cont'd)

A unit for Grades 7&8

The Cross Examiner should ask clear, concise questions

The Respondent should respond knowledgeably using facts to support his/her perspective.

This requires that the team members are **listening attentively** to the constructive speech so that they may attack specific points, and that both the examiner and the respondent need to **think on their feet**. This is where having a very organized debate folder is extremely helpful.

Rebuttal

The Rebuttal is the final opportunity for each side to present their point of view and strongest arguments. This is really a summary of the debate. A rebuttal requires the following:

- reiterate your perspective
- summarize your strongest arguments
- restate your strongest opposing evidence to undermine the other side's arguments
- restate your resolution
- It should be noted that no new information may be introduced in the rebuttal speech, this is purely a chance to summarize what has already been said.

Role of the Speaker

The purpose of this role is to facilitate the debate. All members should address the speaker (Madam Speaker/Mister Speaker) rather than the opposing team. The speaker asks for the confidential/silent vote both at the beginning of the debate and at the end to determine how many votes were changed throughout the debate. The speaker is also responsible for timing the different speakers. A teacher usually performs this role.

Order of speaking

Example:

First Affirmative team member: John

Second Affirmative team member: Sarah

First Negative team member: Emma

Second Negative team member: Benjamin

First Affirmative states resolution (John)

First Negative states resolution (Emma)

Speaker takes confidential/silent vote

Formal Debating Format (Cont'd)A unit for Grades 7&8

First Affirmative	presents constructive speech	(4 minutes)	John
Second Negative	cross examines first affirmative	(2 minutes)	Ben / John
First Negative	presents constructive speech	(4 minutes)	Emma
First Affirmative	cross-examines first negative	(2 minutes)	John/Emma
Second Affirmative	presents constructive speech	(4minutes)	Sarah
First Negative	cross-examines second affirmative	(2 minutes)	Emma/Sarah
Second Negative	presents constructive speech	(4 minutes)	Ben
Second Affirmative	cross-examines second negative	(2minutes)	Sarah/Ben

Five minute break to prepare rebuttal

First Negative	presents rebuttal speech	(3 minutes)	Emma
First Affirmative	presents rebuttal speech	(3 minutes)	John
Second Negative	presents rebuttal speech	(3 minutes)	Ben
Second Affirmative	presents rebuttal speech	(3 minutes)	Sarah

Speaker asks for a confidential/silent vote

Debate Etiquette

- A) The audience must rise for the entrance of the Speaker
- B) Each member is referred to by his or her surname. i.e. "the Member from MacLeod"
- C) Each member must be recognized by the Speaker prior to speaking
- D) Each member must stand to speak
- E) Each member must respectfully address the Speaker before speaking
- F) Members should refrain from addressing their opponents directly- they should go through the Speaker.
Example: "Mme Speaker, I do not understand why my worthy opponent..."
"Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague is mistaken...."
- G) All members must follow the Speaker's instruction and may not argue with the Speaker at any time.
- H) Should the Speaker stand at any time, all members must sit down and refrain from talking.
- I) Members must refrain from shouting at or saying derogatory remarks about their opponents
- J) At the conclusion of the debate both teams should meet and shake hands

Debate Mediator Script

My name is ____ and I will be today's mediator.

Our topic today will be about _____.

On the pro side, we have _____, _____, and _____.

On the con side, we have _____, _____, and _____.

Our first speaker from the pro side will be _____.

Our first speaker from the con side will be _____. Would you like to start off with a rebuttal on the first argument from the pro side?

Our second speaker from the pro side will be _____. Would you like to start off with a rebuttal on the first argument from the con side?

Our second speaker from the con side will be _____. Would you like to start off with a rebuttal on the second argument from the pro side?

Our last speaker from the pro side will be _____. Would you like to start off with a rebuttal on the second argument from the pro side?

Our last speaker from the con side will be _____. Would you like to start off with a rebuttal on the third argument from the pro side?

Now is the time for the open rebuttal phase. Please raise your hand if you would like to give a rebuttal on any of the arguments that were presented from the opposing side.

At this point, both sides will have 3 minutes to prepare their concluding statements.

Pro team, please give your concluding statement.

Con team, please give your concluding statement.

Now the audience will vote for the pro side or the con side for this topic. Please vote for the success of the debate and not your own personal opinion on the topic.

