

# ACADEMIC DEBATE



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# Academic Debate

- ▣ The purest form of debate
- ▣ No embellishments, merely speeches:
  - No Parliamentary interruptions
  - No heckling (unless specifically permitted)
  - No opportunity to question or be questioned (unless permitted)

# Heckling

- ▣ When to Heckle
  - To relieve seriousness of the debate
  - To underline weakness of fact or reasoning
  
- ▣ How to Handle Heckling
  - To prevent it
  - To respond with more humor
  - To ignore

# Worlds Style Points of Information

- ▣ Used at the Worlds Schools Debating Championships
- ▣ Not recommended for novice debaters
- ▣ Raised only between the first and final minute of a constructive speech
- ▣ Take the form of question or remark
- ▣ Must be brief

# Rule # 1

- ▣ Debaters take sides
  - Affirmative
  - Negative
- ▣ Resolution
  - No middle ground; either true or false

# Rule # 2

- ▣ Debaters take turns
  - Oxford format
  - Cambridge format
  - Lincoln-Douglas format



# Oxford format

- ▣ 1st Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (constructive & rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Aff (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Neg (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Aff (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Neg (constructive and rebuttal speech) 8 minutes
- ▣ 1st Aff (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes

Complaints of rule violations, misquotations, etc. by either team.

# Cambridge format

- ▣ 1st Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Affirmative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Negative (constructive speech) 5 minutes
- ▣ 1st Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 1st Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 2nd Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Negative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes
- ▣ 3rd Affirmative (rebuttal speech) 3 minutes

Complaints of rule violations, misquotations, etc. by either team.

# LD format

- ▣ Affirmative 6 minutes
- ▣ Negative Cross-examination 3 minutes
- ▣ Negative 7 minutes
- ▣ Positive CX 3 minutes
- ▣ Affirmative 4 minutes
- ▣ Negative 6 minutes
- ▣ Affirmative 3 minutes
  
- ▣ 5 minutes preparation time

# Constructive speech

- ▣ The affirmative
  - May define resolution
  - Should state the importance of the resolution and the values it contains
  - Should present reasonable arguments to support the values
- ▣ Negative
  - May dispute the affirmative definitions
  - Should attack both the values and the affirmative's interpretation and defense
  - May present new values

# The Rebuttals

- ▣ New evidence to support old arguments
- ▣ The affirmative must reply before the last rebuttal
- ▣ The responsibility of the speaker to defend and to attack

# Cross examination

- ▣ Form of questions and answers
- ▣ Clarification of an obscure point
- ▣ Attitude reasonable, cooperative, eager to please
- ▣ Admissions or information must be used in subsequent speeches
- ▣ Reasonable length

# Rule # 3

- ▣ No Moving Targets
  - Every single argument that Affirmative wants to make must be made in the first speech
  - No adding of new arguments in later speeches
  - Same for Negative
  - Development of arguments

# Addressing

- ▣ In third person by the position
- ▣ Opening
  - Mr. Moderator
  - Honorable judges
  - Worthy opponents
  - Ladies and gentlemen



# Judging

- ▣ Based upon:
  - Skill in analysis
  - Use of evidence
  - Validity of evidence
  - Validity of argument
  - Clarity of organization
  - Effectiveness of delivery
  - Strength and conviction

# May the best win

- ▣ Single-sex schools are good for education
- ▣ Reality television does more harm than good
- ▣ University education should be free
- ▣ Mothers should stay at home and look after their children

# Thank you for your attention!

- ▣ Filiter, John D. "An Introduction to Academic Debate." (2004): n. pag. Web
- ▣ RULES OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
- ▣ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GINVeAfcvyQ>
- ▣ [http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/jbruschke/theory\\_and\\_practice\\_in\\_academic\\_.htm](http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/jbruschke/theory_and_practice_in_academic_.htm)