

The APES Debates

The APES Debates will provide an opportunity to display your skills of persuasion, logical reasoning, research, application of evidence and extemporaneous delivery before an audience of judges. There will be four debates occurring over two days. You will be assigned to a debate team composed of three or four students. Your team will be assigned a proposition and a position to support. You will not reveal your proposition or your position to anyone who is not a member of your team. Your team will research and defend the assigned position. The order of the debates will be determined at random. The format of the debates is outlined below. If the format is not followed the violating team will forfeit the debate.

Format:

- 1) Affirmative: 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
- 2) Negative: 1 minute cross examination.
- 3) Negative: 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
- 4) Affirmative: 1 minute cross examination.
- 5) Affirmative: 2 minute rebuttal.
- 6) Negative: 3 minute rebuttal.
- 7) Affirmative: 1 minute rebuttal.

*a maximum of 30 seconds will be allowed between sides and 15 seconds between stages

Total time: approximately 20 minutes

Terms:

Initial arguments—During initial arguments, each team will present evidence in support of their position on the proposition. Each team should provide all of their evidence at this time, as no new evidence may be presented after the initial arguments.

Cross examination—At this time, a team will ask direct questions of their opponents. Questions can include requests for clarification, references, or any other information related to the evidence presented in initial arguments. Questions may not be related to anything not raised in the opponents initial arguments.

Rebuttal—In their rebuttal, each team will have an opportunity to provide evidence which refutes their opponents' evidence. After the first rebuttal, the teams may also use the rebuttal to resurrect any arguments which were previously refuted.

Strategy:

Your team's goal in the debate is to utilize a preponderance of evidence, logical reasoning, and successful rebuttals of opposing arguments, to overwhelm your opponents. If the audience concludes that your team and not your opponents' team has successfully presented more valid arguments in support of your position while refuting arguments opposing your position, your team will be victorious. This is a competition, and you must be prepared to compete when the debate begins. Team members should be assigned to various roles during the debate, preparing arguments, cross examination, or listening for opposing evidence to refute. The same person(s) should not be responsible for initial arguments and cross examination.

Notes:

- No new evidence may be introduced after initial arguments.
- Teams may only be cross examined regarding the evidence they introduced in their initial arguments.
- The cross-examining team controls the flow of time during their cross examination.
- The team being cross examined must answer the question they were asked and stop. They can be cut off by the team in control.
- The audience will score the debate objectively, based on the number of arguments a team successfully carries through the debate in support of their position, and the number of their opponents arguments they successfully refute.
- The audience must consider any violation of the rules in their scoring of the debate.

Grades:

The audience will help to determine the winning team of each debate. The winning team will receive 50 points. The second place team will receive 25 points. Each team may also earn up to 15 points for submitting their research notes and all other materials used in preparation for the debates.

Name: _____ Period _____

Debate Proposition: _____

Name(s) of the Affirmative Team: _____

Name(s) of the Negative Team: _____

Scoring: (Use the back to score the debate, if you need more space use the space below.)

Which team won the debate? (circle one): Affirmative Negative

Briefly explain why that team won. _____

Name: _____ Period _____

Debate Proposition: _____

Name(s) of the Affirmative Team: _____

Name(s) of the Negative Team: _____

Scoring (Use the back to score the debate, if you need more space use the space below.)

Which team won the debate? (circle one): Affirmative Negative

Briefly explain why that team won. _____

Alternative Debate Format

Affirmative: 3 minute opening statement

Negative: 3 minute opening statement

1 minute crossfire

Affirmative: 2 minute rebuttal

Negative: 2 minute rebuttal

3 minute crossfire

Affirmative: 1 minute closing statement

Negative: 1 minute closing statement