

Debate Procedure

The debate will take the form of timed individual and/or group presentations and responses separated by timed group work periods. The rules applied may deviate from the formal rules of debating. When questions arise, the judgment of the instructor will provide the definitive ruling.

Prior to the beginning of the class period, both teams are to position their desks facing each other at the front of the room. Each team is to write its team name, debate position, and debate position statement on the blackboard behind their desks. Note that absolutely no changes may be made to the position statements presented below. You must argue them exactly as written!

Team members may speak either from their desks or from the podium, as they desire. Audiovisuals may be used at any time, including, but not limited to, handouts, flipcharts, transparencies, slides, audio and videotapes, etc. While a team is not required to use all of the time allocated to each debate component, speakers must stop immediately when the allocated time runs out. Team members are prohibited from speaking to the audience or opposing team except at the times specifically allocated to them. Thus, there can be no immediate, reciprocal interchange of comments between the teams. The sequence of the position summaries will be determined by a random procedure at the conclusion of the final work period. Note that no new information may be introduced during the summary. Doing so may result in disqualification of the offending group. If either team feels that their opponents are introducing new information during the summary, they may challenge them immediately and request a ruling from the instructor.

Example:

Debate Topics

Whose Responsibility is Stress?

PRO: Employees who cannot take the stress inherent in a job should be relieved of their current duties (i.e., transferred, demoted, or fired, as appropriate). Stress management should ultimately be the employees' responsibility.

CON: Employees with stress problems should be guaranteed not to lose their current positions while the company provides or arranges for special treatment to alleviate their stress related problems. The corporation has an obligation to provide significant assistance to employees in the area of stress management.