**Debate Rules**

Format:

* 1st Affirmative/Opening Statement
* 1st Negative/Opening Statement
* 2nd Affirmative/Rebuttal
* 2nd Negative/Rebuttal
* 3rd Affirmative/Rebuttal
* 3rd Negative/Rebuttal
* Affirmative Closing Statement
* Negative Closing Statement

Debate Guide:

1. An opening statement will be made by each team during their 1st speech. This should be 2 minutes long and should state your team's position and the arguments/solutions you will be proposing.

2. Rebuttal rounds are used to address opponents’ arguments and address direct questions to the opponents. You should have at least 1 question that can be asked of your opponent. The questions should be specifically directed to your opponent and should be concise and clear.

3. You should have answers prepared which will be used to respond to your opponent’s questions. Imagine that you are from the other team and determine what questions may be asked of your team.

4. You should have a final conclusive argument/statement drawn up which will be written at the end of your debate. This should be no longer than 2 minutes. You should take notes during the entire debate so that you may refer to these in your final presentation of your team's views.

5. When teams have determined who will be responsible for each portion of the debate, it is up to you to prepare yourself for the challenge that lies ahead. Only one team will win this debate. The winning team will:

* have a solid background regarding all material
* have plenty of evidence to back up claims
* work as a team to teach all in the group the important concepts behind specific argument positions
* be creative/psyche out opponents
* outclass opponents/never give an answer of "uh...."

6. A single grade will be assigned to the entire team as well as an individual grade. Teams will be evaluated based upon organization, command of issues, ability to give relevant facts, response to issues raised by the opposite side and ability to convince the judge (teacher) that you have persuasively argued your case.