All about the formats.

an overview of the debate options offered through HUDL

Shanna D. Schultz  September 25, 2021
Professor of Speech
Senior Content and Brand Manager
Workshop Reminders

While waiting for others to come in, here are some rules and reminders to keep in mind.

01 Keep your mask on at all times. Masks must cover the mouth and nose.

02 Do not leave the seminar until dismissed.

03 Respect everyone’s personal space.
Workshop Structure

Our agenda for today

→ Welcome and introductions
→ Congress
→ Cross Examination
→ Lincoln Douglas
→ Public Forum
→ World’s Schools
I have nearly 20 years of debate experience.

From local round robins to international competitions, I've been committed to the debate community for most of my life.

I work as a marketer, a freelance podcaster, a volunteer educator, and a part-time professor of speech. Needless to say, I like communication.
What is debate?

No matter what format you participate in, there are key similarities across all types of debates as well as countless benefits.
Listening.
Critical thinking.
Cooperative spirit.
How to craft an argument.
Format: Congress

Ever wanted to be in Washington? Congress might be for you.
Craft and debate legislation.

This format simulates the US Congress; both the House and Senate.

Competitors discuss and debate a predetermined set of legislation called a 'docket'. There are Affirmative and Negative approaches. The round last 2-3 hours.

At competition, students will negotiate an agenda from the docket. The Presiding Officer, who is elected by the body, conducts the sessions. Competitors roleplay as legislatures, including questioning, debating, and voting.
Do you like playing Risk? CX debate is meticulous, strategic, and rewarding.
One topic.

80 mins. long.

Driven by evidence

Evidence and research-focused, affirmative presents a plan that deals with some aspect of the topic, negative argues that the plan isn't needed or causes more problems than it solves.
Speech times

Constructives
- 1st Affirmative Constructive—8 minutes
  - CX by 2N—3 minutes
- 1st Negative Constructive—8 minutes
  - CX by 1A—3 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Constructive—8 minutes
  - CX by 1N—3 minutes
- 2nd Negative Constructive—8 minutes
  - CX by 2A—3 minutes

Rebuttals
- 1st Negative Rebuttal—5 minutes
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal—5 minutes
- 2nd Negative Rebuttal—5 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal—5 minutes

8 minutes of prep time per team.
What must the affirmative accomplish?

**Burden of Proof**
Through evidence and argumentation, the Affirmative has the burden to prove their case at all levels: problem, plan, and solution.

What must the negative accomplish?

**Burden of Rebuttal**
The Negative side has the burden of responding to the arguments of the Affirmative and dismantling their case.
Affirmative (Aff)

Outlines problems in the current system and presents a plan for improving those problems. The plan should address the following Stock Issues:

- **Topicality**: Does the plan fall under the year’s resolution
- **Harms**: The problems in the Status Quo
- **Significance**: The scope of the harms
- **Inherency**: Why the harms can’t be solved in the current system.
- **Solvency**: How the Aff plan solves the harms
Negative (Neg)

Argues against the affirmative plan in one of more of the following ways

- Plan isn’t needed
- Not topical
- Harms don’t exist or aren’t significant
- Plan doesn’t solve for harms
- Presents a counter plan to solve the problems presented by the Aff
- Points out new problems caused by the Aff’s plan
Sample topics for CX debate

- Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth’s oceans.

- Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela.

- Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its transportation infrastructure investment in the United States.

- Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its exploration and/or development of space beyond the Earth’s mesosphere.
Format: Lincoln-Douglas

Prefer to be solo? Love philosophy? LD debate is one-to-one combat.
Seeks to arbitrate philosophical and moral tensions

LD debate is also research driven, but rather than attempting to solve a problem of policy, this format requires the debaters argue about the moral implications of a topic.

The topics change each semester. It is a 1v1 format.
Speech times

- 1st Affirmative Constructive – 6 minutes
  - *Cross Examination (Neg questions Aff on Aff’s case)* – 3 minutes
- 1st Negative Constructive – 7 minutes
  - *Cx (Aff questions Neg on Neg’s Case)* – 3 minutes
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal – 4 minutes
- 1st Negative Rebuttal – 6 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal – 3 minutes

Four minutes of prep time for each side.
Affirmative (Aff)

- Must defend the resolution through the application of a logical value for evaluating the round.
- Provide 2–3 evidence-based arguments
- Must defend their claims against the negative’s attack on their case.
- Summarize the round for the judge
Negative (Neg)

- Attack the resolution through the application of a logical value for evaluating the resolution
- Counter the affirmative’s claims in support of the resolution and defend its case with 1-2 evidenced-based arguments
- Attack the Affirmative case
- Summarize the round for the judge
Sample topics for LD debate

- Resolved: The United States ought to provide a universal basic income.
- Resolved: Plea bargaining ought to be abolished in the United States criminal justice system.
- Resolved: Wealthy nations have an obligation to provide development assistance to other nations.
- Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be compulsory.
- Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.
- Resolved: Public colleges and universities in the United States ought not restrict any constitutionally protected speech.
- Resolved: The United States ought to limit qualified immunity for police officers.
- Resolved: Countries ought to prohibit the production of nuclear power.
Format: Public Forum

Do you like to get straight to the point? PF debate values short, quality speeches on timely subjects.
After the coin toss:

- Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st speaker) ..........4 min.
- Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st speaker) ..........4 min.
  - Crossfire (between speakers 1 & 2) .....3 min.
- Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd speaker) ........4 min.
- Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd speaker) ........4 min
  - Crossfire (between speakers 3 & 4) .....3 min.
- Speaker 1 Summary..........................3 min.
- Speaker 2 Summary..........................3 min.
  - Grand Crossfire (all speakers) ..........3 min.
- Speaker 3 Final Focus......................2 min.
- Speaker 4 Final Focus......................2 min.

3 minutes of prep time per team.
Noteworthy features

Public Forum is very unique. Unlike other debate formats, the team that starts the round is not set-in stone. It is determined by a coin flip that happens at the very beginning of the round. The team that wins the flip gets to either choose what side of the debate they will be on (PRO or CON) or if their team will speak 1st or 2nd. The team that loses the flip will decide their preference from the option not selected by the winner.

For example, if the team that wins the flips decides they will debate as the PRO team. The team that lost the flip gets to decide if they are going 1st or second.

Here is another example. If the winning team decides to speak 2nd, then the losing team may decide which side (pro or con) they will argue.

In public forum there are two teams. The Pro team that debates in favor of the resolution and the Con team that debates against the resolution.
Team responsibilities

The Pro advocates for the adoption of the resolution

The Con advocates against the adoption of the resolution

Clear communication is a priority

Less is more.

Argumentation is supreme in the round

The art of persuasion

Topics change bi-monthly. Teams of 2.
Sample topics for PF debate

- Resolved: The United States federal government should enforce antitrust regulations on technology giants.
- Resolved: The United Nations should grant India permanent membership on the Security Council.
- Resolved: The United States should promote the development of market-rate housing in urban neighborhoods.
- Resolved: The United States should end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
- Resolved: The United States federal government should prioritize reducing the federal debt over promoting economic growth.
- Resolved: The United States federal government should impose price controls on the pharmaceutical industry.
Format: Worlds Schools Debate

Do you like to tell stories? What about traveling and learning about other cultures? Worlds is an internationally focused debate.
New topics each round.

Interactive and performative.

Worlds is an international type of debate that focuses on big-picture issues with a global perspective. Modeled after British parliament, Worlds is the only practiced format where opponents can interrupt the speaker.
Constructives
- 8 Minutes: 1st Prop.
- 8 Minutes: 1st Opp.
- 8 Minutes: 2nd Prop.
- 8 Minutes: 2nd Opp.
- 8 Minutes: 3rd Prop.
- 8 Minutes: 3rd Opp.

Rebuttal/Reply
- 4 Minutes: Opp. Reply
- 4 Minutes: Prop. Reply

No prep time for any teams during the round.
Proposition (Prop)

- Defend the topic and prove that in most cases, the topic is true
- Provide an overall framework for the debate including definitions and a general understanding of what the debate should be about
- 2–3 major arguments
Negative (Neg)

• Oppose the topic and prove that in most cases, the topic is false
• Accept or challenge the Prop’s framework
• 2–3 major arguments
Noteworthy features

Points of Information (POIs)

Between the first and seventh minute of the constructive speeches, the opponents may stand, raise their hand, and seek the floor from the speaker. If the speaker yields the floor, then the person has up to 15s to ask a question.

No POIs permitted during the reply sessions.
Sample topics for worlds debate

- THW eliminate all occupational licensing requirements for practicing the law.
- TH supports the creation of LGBT schools.
- THW establish an international cap and trade system for refugees.
- THBT a two-party system is preferable to a multi-party system.
- TH supports the privatization of all government owned energy companies.
- THBT memes are a detriment to politics.
- THW gender de-segregate public bathrooms.
- THBT needle exchanges benefit society while harming addicts.
- THBT E-Sports are the future of competitive entertainment.
- THBT predictive policing is unethical.

TH = This House
THBT = This House believes that
THW: This House would
questions?

Contact me anytime
Shanna.Schultz@outlook.com