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Points of Information

Goals:

- Debaters will develop strong skills in offering points of information
- Debaters will develop strong skills in replying to points of information
- Make debaters search for arguments, and thus points to pose, on a variety of topics. Thus, in one setting with eight debaters everyone will consider the arguments for and against eight different topics.

Procedure:

1. For guidance on teaching points of information (POI), see <https://vimeo.com/48153250>
2. Provide each debater a topic and give the class 7–8 minutes to outline a very brief first proposition or opposition speech.
3. Have a debater speak on his topic, but after one to one and a half minutes pound the table and ask the other members of the group to start offering points of information. All debaters must pose points to the speaker. The speaker **MUST** take all points from a variety of debaters, not just one or two.
4. Evaluate each POI and response: is the question too long or too easy? Are answers too long or weak etc. Feel free to interject these comments during the speech, but do not let others do so.

Cautions:

- Make speeches long enough so that you use all the time and everyone gets to speak. To do this calculate the number of minutes you have in the session, divide that by the number of debaters you want to speak, add some time for preparation for the drill (10 minutes) and comments (very brief, like two minutes per speaker), and then you will know how long to make speeches for this exercise. If they have to speak for nine minutes taking points for eight of them, that is acceptable.
- You can also feel free to offer points, but model good practice and behavior as indicated in the video (<https://vimeo.com/48153250>).
- Always make sure to maintain decorum, no flagging of points (indicating the content of the point when asking to be recognized) or inappropriate behavior.
- Watch the time. Before the first speech is given, use the formula above to calculate how long speeches can be based on the time remaining and the number of debaters in your group