Speaking Responsibilities

There will be two teams- the Pro and the Con. Each team will have a First and Second Speaker.

Initial Constructive Speeches

The debates will begin with the first speakers presenting their initial case for their side of the topic. The speech should begin with an attention getter—a quote, statistic, or anecdote. Before the debate begins the teams should have a developed list of reasons as to why the resolution should be accepted or rejected. Each team is expected to begin with at least two solid reasons. These reasons/arguments should be supported with examples from the text. Although these speeches are prepared in advance, they should not be read word for word.

First Crossfire

During the first crossfire, the First Speakers have the opportunity to clarify their opponents’ positions and back the opponent into a corner. During this period the opponents will ask and answer questions of one another.

Rebuttals

The Second Speakers are responsible for responding to the claims made by the first two speakers. Their speeches are designed to rebut the claims the other side has made. Since these speakers will not know what arguments are being made before the debate begins, they will probably find themselves speaking even more “conversationally” than the first two speakers. However, they too must be using the text in their responses, proving their knowledge of the text and their ability to orally construct an argument.

Second Crossfire

During the second crossfire, the Second Speakers have the opportunity to question their opponents and further prove their points through questioning.

First Speaker Summary

At this point in the debate the speakers must decide which points will help them win the debate and which points they should drop. The speakers should re-emphasize the points that they believe are crucial to their winning of the debate and also, explain the flaws in their opponents’ case in this summary of the debate.

Grand Crossfire

During the grand crossfire all opponents have the opportunity to ask and respond to questioning. This is the final opportunity to direct a question or get a direct response from your opponents.

Second Speaker Final Focus

The Final Focus is the “last shot” to prove why you and your partner should win this debate. You have one minute to highlight a particularly crucial point and conclude your debate in an effort to prove that your arguments have been the strongest.
1st Speaker Pro must:
- define the topic.
- present the affirmative’s team line.
- outline briefly what each speaker in their team will talk about.
- present the first half of the affirmative case.

1st Speaker Con must:
- accept or reject the definition. If you don’t do this it is assumed that you accept the definition.
- present the con team line.
- outline briefly what each of the con speakers will say.
- rebut a few of the main points of the first pro speaker.
- the 1st con should spend about one quarter of their time rebutting.
- present the first half of the con team’s case.

2nd Speaker Pro must:
- reaffirm the pro’s team line.
- rebut the main points presented by the 1st con.
- the 2nd pro should spend about one third of their time rebutting.
- present the second half of the pro’s case.

2nd Speaker Con must:
- reaffirm the con’s team line.
- rebut some of the main points of the pro’s case.
- the 2nd con should spend about one third of their time rebutting.
- present the second half of the con’s case.

1st Speaker Pro Summary must:
- reaffirm the pro’s team line.
- rebut all the remaining points of the con’s case.
- should spend about two thirds to three quarters of their time rebutting.
- present a summary of the pro’s case.
- round off the debate for the pro.

1st Speaker Con Summary must:
- reaffirm the con’s team line.
- rebut all the remaining points of the pro’s case.
- should spend about two thirds to three quarters of their time rebutting.
- present a summary of the con’s case.
- round off the debate for the con.

Neither 1st speaker summary may introduce any new parts of their team’s cases.
To Kill a Mockingbird Debate-Rubric

Topic: ________________________________

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<th>Pro Names</th>
<th>Con Names</th>
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5 – Superior 4-Good 3-Average 2-Deficient 1-Poor

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<th>Pro #2</th>
<th>Con #1</th>
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Arguments: Did the debater explain the most important issues on the topic? At least 2 clear arguments?

Evidence: Did the debater support arguments with facts and expert opinions?

Analysis/Reasoning: Did the conclusions reached by the debater flow from the evidence?

Cross Fire: Were questions and responses relevant and brief? Was the debater civil?

Rebuttal: Did the debater effectively respond/counter the arguments of the opponents?

Organization: Did the debater organize the arguments so that his/her points were clear and followed by clear, cited examples?

Delivery: Did the debater speak in a communicative style—loud, clear, eye contact with opponents.

Totals

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