

RULES OF THE DEBATE

590101-ETC

7/11-12-12

Rule 1. Staging the Debate

- a. Each team shall consist of three speakers.
- b. Each team shall have two constructive speeches, intermission, one rebuttal, another intermission, and lastly one summary in this order.
- c. Each constructive speech shall be given within the time limit of five minutes.
- d. The affirmative shall have the first constructive speech.
- e. Three minutes' intermission shall follow the four constructive speeches.
- f. The negative shall have the first rebuttal speech.
- g. The rebuttal shall be given within the time limit of thirty minutes for each team, alternately from each side until the end of the rebuttal. A speech, if finished within one minute, shall be regarded as one minute's speech. In the case that one team has spent out thirty minutes, only one speaker of the other team shall be allowed to speak within the time left, or within five minutes if more than five minutes are left.
- h. Two minutes' intermission shall follow the rebuttal.
- i. The summary shall be given by one speaker of each side within the time limit of five minutes, starting with the negative.
- j. Each speaker should speak within seven minutes in the rebuttal.

Rule 2. Definition of Terms

- a. The affirmative has the right to make any reasonable definition of each of the terms of the proposition.
- ~~b. If the negative challenges the reasonableness of the definition by the affirmative, the affirmative must accept the definition of the term that shows better grounds for its interpretation of the term.~~
- c. Once the negative has accepted the affirmative's definitions, it may not object to them, even though it later develops that they are unreasonable.
- d. Failure of the negative to object to the affirmative's definitions in the first constructive speech following the definitions is equivalent to acceptance of them by the negative.
- e. The phrase "should be adopted" or its equivalent, means desirable. It does not in any way obligate the affirmative to prove that the plan actually could be adopted.

Rule 3. The Proposed Plans.

- a. The affirmative must advocate everything required by the topic itself. It may work out the details of its plan as it sees fit.
- b. The affirmative may take on the burden of proving anything else it desires.
- c. If the negative offers a counterplan, it must provide a change of principle from the affirmative plan.
- d. The affirmative must explain, upon demand by the negative, the major features and policies under which the proposed plan is to operate. The affirmative must not leave its plan so vague as to prevent a reasonable attack by the negative on the grounds of practicability. If the negative advocate a counterplan, it has a similar duty.

Rule 4. Consistency of Position

No revision of position of a team is permitted during the debate.

Rule 5. Burden of Proof

- a. He who asserts must prove.
- b. In order to prove an assertion, a team must support it with enough evidence and logic to give reasonable grounds for believing the assertion.

Rule 6. Refutation and Rebuttal

- a. No new constructive arguments may not be introduced in the rebuttal period.
- b. Either team, when advocating a plan of action, must explain that plan early enough in the debate so that the opposing team has a constructive speech to reply in.
- c. Both teams have the right to introduce new evidence pertaining to an established point into the rebuttal if it is used for refutation of counterrefutation.
- d. The refutation may take place in any part of the debate and is not limited to the rebuttal period.
- e. The affirmative must not delay the initial refutation of negative constructive arguments until the last affirmative rebuttal, unless the last rebuttal is the first opportunity for the affirmative to make this refutation.
- f. During the last rebuttal of the debate, if the negative believes it is being misquoted or if it believes that the affirmative is introducing inaccurate facts, or if it believes the affirmative is violating the proceeding rule, the negative may ask for the floor to point out this situation briefly to the judge.

Rule 7. Questioning During Constructive Speeches

- a. During the constructive speeches, a debater may ask a reasonable number of questions for the opposing team to answer in its own speaking period.
- b. At the time the questions are asked, the speaker must make clear that he really desired answers and is not asking rhetorical questions. If he fails to do so, there is no obligation on the part of the opposing team to reply.
- c. When the above condition has been met, the opposing team in its next speech must either answer or show good reasons for not answering.
- d. New constructive arguments may be introduced in the rebuttal period if the rebuttal is the first opportunity to answer a direct question and of these new arguments answer the question.

Rule 8. Courtesy and Ethics

- a. Any restatement or quotation of an opponent's argument must be accurately made.
- b. Fact, presented in a debate as such, must be accurate.
- c. When visual aids are used by the debater, they must be removed from the view of the audience at the conclusion of the speech in which they are introduced. Once introduced in a debate, they become available for either team's use.