Debate Outline and Rubric

Topic (circle one):

Farrowing and gestation stalls

GMOs

Antibiotic use in livestock

My team (circle one):

For the motion (A)

Against the motion (B)

Audience

Debate Outline:

* Team A presents opening statement – 3 minutes
* Team B presents opening statement – 3 minutes
* Team A presents rebuttal – 2 minutes
* Team B presents rebuttal – 2 minutes
* Team A asks two questions for Team B to respond to – 5 minutes
* Team B asks two questions for Team A to respond to – 5 minutes
* Team A presents closing statement – 2 minutes
* Team B presents closing statement – 2 minutes
* Questions from audience – 5 minutes

Debate Objectives:

* Team A’s objective is to prove that their stance for the motion is the better choice, while citing good sources, following the formal debate outline, and staying respectful to all classmates
* Team B’s objective is to prove that their stance against the motion is the better choice, while citing good sources, following the formal debate outline, and staying respectful to all classmates
* The audience’s objective is to objectively listen to the arguments made by the two debating teams, ask relevant questions during specified time of the debate, and grade both debating teams as best as possible on the rubric. The winning team will be decided based on your rubrics and votes.

Debate Organizer:

* Opening statement
  + Include a strong hook, statement to identify your position, at least three arguments that support your position, and a concluding sentence.
  + Hook: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + 1st Argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + 2nd Argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + 3rd Argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Rebuttal
  + Try to preemptively guess what points your opponent will make, and plan strategies to weaken those points.
  + Potential opponent argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Our argument against: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Potential opponent argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Our argument against: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Potential argument against: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Our argument against: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Questions
  + Use questions to try to poke holes in their argument. This section will test how well each team can defend their position.
  + 1st Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + 2nd Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Closing statement
  + Use this time to summarize your main points and arguments. This will be your last main time to prove your position is correct!
* Audience questions
  + Be prepared to answer the same types of questions as you would in a rebuttal or the questions section.

Rubric:

* Following are two rubrics. The audience will use one to judge Team A and one to judge Team B.
* Team A and Team B can use these rubrics to prepare for the debate and see what will be examined.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total points** | **Respect of other team** | **Understanding of Topic** | **Relevant and appropriate facts, sources, and statistics** | **Use of rebuttal and questions** | **Organization and Clarity** | **Criteria** |
|  | All statements, body language, and responses were respectful, and used appropriate language | A deep and clear understanding of the topic was displayed with unwavering confidence | Every major point was well supported with multiple facts from valid sources | Rebuttal and questions were concise, relevant, and strong. Team defended against rebuttal and questions with ease. | All arguments were concise, logical, clear, and well-organized. | **5 points** |
|  | Most statements, body language, and responses were respectful, with one or two exceptions | Team displayed clear understanding of topic, with one or two moments of uncertainty | Every major point was supported with facts from valid sources | Rebuttal and questions were concise and relevant. Team defended against rebuttal and questions well. | Most arguments were concise, logical, clear, and well-organized. | **4 points** |
|  | Team worked to remain respectful, but showed disrespectful behavior three or four times | Team presented topic clearly, but did not display as deep of an understanding | Every major point was supported with facts, but the relevance or source of some facts was questionable | Rebuttal and questions were relevant, and defended against rebuttal with some uncertainty. | Arguments were adequately concise, logical, clear, and well-organized. | **3 points** |
|  | Team struggled to maintain composure, and showed multiple instances of disrespect | Team showed partial understanding of topic | Some points were well supported, others were not supported | Rebuttal and questions were mostly relevant, but defense against rebuttal and questions was weak. | Some arguments were concise, logical, clear, and well-organized, and others were not. | **2 points** |
|  | Statements, body language, responses, and/or language were consistently disrespectful | Team did not show an adequate understanding of topic | None of the major points were supported with facts from good sources | Rebuttal and questions were irrelevant, lengthy, and/or weak. Team’s defense against rebuttal and questions were weak. | Arguments were consistently not concise, logical, clear, or well-organized. | **1 points** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Points** |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Points** |