



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Physics 180B Student Debates Spring 2006

Your Name _____

Debate Evaluated _____

Debate Instructions

- 1) Print out this entire document.
- 2) Read the information given in this packet to help you prepare for your debates and to evaluate them as well.
- 3) Read and understand the Scoring Criteria. You will want to know how to prepare for the debate as well as how to score others' debates.
- 4) Listen to your assigned debates. As you listen,
 - a. Each team's *Debate Evaluation Form* and *Notes and Comments Form* need to be filled in. Record the team name. Record team members names. Try to be accurate. These forms will go to the teams.
 - b. Evaluate each team member according to the Scoring Criteria. Be accurate.
 - c. Record notes and comments about the team members performance and briefly analyze the overall debate.
- 5) Do this for each debate that you evaluate.
- 6) Each *Debate Evaluation Form* that you do is worth 10 points. You need to evaluate at least four debates. You can evaluate 2 more debates for extra credit. You will be evaluated on your evaluations!
- 7) Turn in the cover page with each debate evaluation: 4 Debate Evaluation Forms and 4 Notes and Comments Forms.

*Your **total score** for this assignment will be assessed as follows. (Total 150 points)*

- 1) **Debate Performance**: 80 points (30 pts. by student internet audience, 50 pts. by Instructor)
- 2) **Debate Materials**: 30 points (one page from each member)
- 3) **Scoring of the Debates**: 40 points (30 extra credit points possible)
- 4) The best performance by a team member will have the option to NOT take the final test. You will have the opportunity to keep your final grade after all work is turned in and graded.
- 5) The two teams with the best debate performance will be allowed to present a debate in front of class instead of doing the final.

Possible Student Debates Topics

Resolutions:

- 1) **Global Warming: Is More Action Needed?** – That we should take more urgent action to halt this trend.
- 2) **Biodiversity and Endangered Species** – That we should prevent species from becoming extinct.
- 4) **Intelligent Design-vs-Evolution** - That schools should not be allowed to teach creationism alongside evolution as part of their science curriculum.
- 5) **Drugs in Sport** - That the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport should be legalized.
- 6) **Genetically Modified Food** - That it should be not be banned.
- 7) **Human Cloning** - That human cloning should be banned.
- 8) **Space Exploration** - That mankind should not invest in the exploration of space.

Basic Instructions

- Each debate team will have four students. Each team will create a name for itself.
- One team will be chosen or be assigned the affirmative side of an issue. The other team will be chosen or be assigned the negative side of that issue.
- Every student on a team must participate in the preparation for its team's presentation, and in the presentation itself. A fair "division of labor" should be established prior to the debate.
- Each team will be allowed two 1-minute timeouts for strategy sessions.
- Each team will be allowed two 30-second responses to any rebuttal.

Debate Format

Debate follows a structured format. For our purposes, the following format will be observed:

1. Captains introduce the debate topic, the two teams, and review the debate format.
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2. Affirmative side states its position on the resolution. Captain (5 min)
 3. Negative side states its position on the resolution. Captain (5 min)
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1st Team members

4. Affirmative side presents **first argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 5. Negative side **rebutts** Affirmative side's first argument. (2 min)
 6. Negative side presents its **first argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 7. Affirmative side **rebutts** Negative side's first argument. (2 min)
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2nd Team members

8. Affirmative side presents **second argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 9. Negative side **rebutts** Affirmative side's second argument. (2 min)
 10. Negative side presents its **second argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 11. Affirmative side **rebutts** Negative side's second argument. (2 min)
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3rd Team members

12. Affirmative side presents **third argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 13. Negative side **rebutts** Affirmative side's third argument. (2 min)
 14. Negative side presents its **third argument** in support of its position. (5 min)
 15. Affirmative side **rebutts** Negative side's third argument. (2 min)
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16. Affirmative side makes its closing statement on the resolution. Captain (3 min)
 17. Negative side makes its closing statement on the resolution. Captain (3 min)
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18. The audience may ask questions of either team. Or, the debate can continue. . .

Scoring Criteria

A speech is scored on six key elements: argument, content, rebuttal, style, teamwork and overall.

Opening Statement and Argumentation

The Captain presents the resolution in the affirmative or the negative. A team should present three or four separate and distinct arguments. Each argument should be supported by scientific evidence. And each argument should be clearly related to the resolution.

Science Content

An argument must be backed up with [scientific evidence](#). This can take the form of statistics, real-life examples and factual knowledge. Scientific Papers, etc. Evidence is very important. Statements without evidence are assertions and evidence without statements are a collection of facts

Refutation/Rebuttal

Each argument presented by a speaker must be opposed by each successive speaker with a counter argument. You are allowed to confer with the other team. This will help both teams prepare for the debate. You may set –up a meeting between both teams to get to know each other. This is not a war, it is a debate. Let’s be friends and competitors at the same time.

Style and rhetoric

The manner in which arguments are presented can, at times, be as important as the arguments themselves. A smooth, polished and confident speaking style is very persuasive. And using rhetorical techniques and flourishes to add flair to a speech can heighten the impact of the speech. Effective use of humor can be a very powerful style element.

Teamwork

Debaters are expected to perform as a team. Earlier speakers set the stage for later speakers while those following expand on and reinforce earlier arguments. A follow-up speaker may need to clarify (and even correct) a point made by an earlier speaker. This should be done very carefully, however, because contradictions and inconsistencies between speakers can be fatal.

Overall

This is how the pieces fit together. Definition of the resolution should be unambiguous. Arguments should be clearly and carefully mapped out with more time allotted to the key arguments and less to minor ones. Rebuttals should concisely and powerfully distill the central issue in an argument and drive to its core. Speakers should not get bogged down in unnecessary details. They should use all their time but leave sufficient time to recap their arguments/counter arguments.

Scoring Help for Audience

Captains

- 1) *At the beginning of the debate, both Captains deliver their Opening Statements. Score their Opening Statement boxes.*
- 2) *At the end of the debate, both Captains deliver their Closing Statements. Score their Closing Statement boxes.*
- 3) *The Content, Style Teamwork and Overall boxes should be scored using both Opening and Closing Statements. So, score half the total value for the Opening Statement and half for the Closing Statement.*

Team Members

- 1) *The first Affirmative Team member delivers their first argument.. Score the Argument box.*
- 2) *The first Negative Team member rebuts the first Affirmative team argument. . . Score the Rebuttal box.*
- 3) *The first Negative Team member delivers their first argument.. Score the Argument box.*
- 3) *The first Affirmative Team member rebuts the first Negative Team argument. . . Score Rebuttal box.*
- 4) *The Content, Style Teamwork and Overall boxes should be scored using both Argument and Rebuttal Statements. So, score half the total value for the Argument and half for the Rebuttal. **Repeat for the second and third team members.***

For instance: if you think that a team member delivered an excellent Argument with well organized content, score 5 points in the Content box. If you think that same team member rebutted the other team’s argument with great content, score the other 5 points. So, score a total of 10 points in the Content box.

Debate Evaluation Form

<i>Affirmative - Team Name</i>		<i>Debate Topic</i>					
Team Member	Opening Stmt or Argument <i>(0-10)</i>	Science Content <i>(0-10)</i>	Style or Rhetoric <i>(0-5)</i>	Closing Stmt or Rebuttal <i>(0-10)</i>	Teamwork <i>(0-5)</i>	Overall <i>(0-10)</i>	Total
Captain							
1 st							
2 nd							
3 rd							
Total Down <i>All four team members</i>							

Argument (Opening Statement) (10 points)

- 0 no arguments, (no opening statement)
- 1-2 few arguments (statements), marginal relevancy, unclear
- 3 one clear, relevant argument together with muddled thinking
- 4-5 more than one clear, relevant argument (statement)
- 6-10 multiple, interesting arguments (statements)

Science Content (10 points)

- 0 no science content
- 1-2 partial science content
- 3 science content for key premise in all arguments
- 4-5 some evidence for arguments
- 6-10 strong evidence for arguments

Teamwork (5 points)

- 0 no set-up or follow-through for teammates argument
- 1 some set-up or follow-through for teammates argument
- 2-3 teammates share in full development of arguments
- 4-5 seamless presentation, balance of styles

Rebuttal (Closing Statement) (10 points)

- 0 no counter arguments (statements)
- 1 some missed arguments (statements), unclear rebuttals (statements)
- 2-3 no missed arguments (statements), one clear rebuttal (statement)
- 4-5 clear rebuttals to all arguments (statements)
- 6-10 devastating rebuttals (conclusions) or new arguments

Style/Rhetoric (5 points)

- 0 poorly organized, hesitations, flat, distracting mannerisms
- 1 no significant weaknesses
- 2 crisp delivery, some flair
- 3-4 humor, choice of words, other rhetorical devices
- 5 outstanding speech is all regards

Overall (10 points)

- 0 unpersuasive and incomprehensible
- 1 hit-and-miss
- 2-3 more "hits" than "misses," generally solid performance
- 4-5 all hits, effective use of time
- 6-10 perfect execution, interesting arguments, entertaining and persuasive

<i>Negative - Team Name</i>		<i>Debate Topic</i>					
Team Member	Opening Stmt or Argument <i>(0-10)</i>	Science Content <i>(0-10)</i>	Style or Rhetoric <i>(0-5)</i>	Closing Stmt or Rebuttal <i>(0-10)</i>	Teamwork <i>(0-5)</i>	Overall <i>(0-10)</i>	Total
Captain							
1 st							
2 nd							
3 rd							
Total Down <i>All four team members</i>							

Notes and Comments on the Debate

Affirmative Team -		Negative Team -	
Captain - Opening Statement	Captain - Closing Statement	Captain - Opening Statement	Captain - Closing Statement
1 st Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal	1 st Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal
2 nd Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal	2 nd Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal
3 rd Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal	3 rd Team Member - Argument	Rebuttal