

Debate briefs and formats

The debate should feature Weaver's theory of rhetoric and at least one other theory (Aristotle's or Lamy's), based on which is most relevant to the proposition you are debating. The overall Debate 1 grade will be based on the brief (60%) and the debate itself (40%).

Debate brief

A debate brief is a collection of arguments and evidence that you can use when you debate. The brief should include more arguments and evidence than you have time to use. Include arguments for your position, and anticipate and answer potential counterarguments. Each team should prepare a brief as a Blackboard wiki (on the course Blackboard site → Course Tools → Wikis). See the "Sample brief draft" for a template.

2 on 2 (First and Second Affirmative vs. First and Second Negative)

First Affirmative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments – 2-3 minutes

First Negative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments – 2-3 minutes

Second Affirmative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, make arguments, begin to directly address

First Negative arguments – 2-3 minutes

Second Negative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, make arguments, begin to directly address

Second Affirmative arguments – 2-3 minutes

Break – 1 minute

First Negative rebuttal: Rebuild case by continuing to address Affirmative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning – 1-1.5 minutes

First Affirmative rebuttal: Rebuild case by continuing to address Negative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning - 1-1.5 minutes

Second Negative rebuttal: Last negative speech! Rebuild case and note arguments the Affirmative has not answered. - 1-1.5 minutes

Second Affirmative rebuttal: Last affirmative speech! Rebuild case and note arguments the Negative has not answered. - 1-1.5 minutes

1 on 1 (Affirmative vs. Negative)

Affirmative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments - 2-3 minutes

Negative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments - 2-3 minutes

Break – 30 seconds

Negative rebuttal 1: Rebuild case by addressing Affirmative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning – 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Affirmative rebuttal 1: Rebuild case by addressing Negative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning – 0.5 - 0.75 minute

Break – 30 seconds

Negative rebuttal 2: Last speech! Rebuild case and note arguments the Affirmative has not answered. - 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Affirmative rebuttal 2: Last speech! Rebuild case and note arguments the Negative has not answered. - 0.5 – 0.75 minute

1 on 1 on 1 (Affirmative vs. Negative 1 vs. Negative 2)

Affirmative constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments - 2-3 minutes

Negative 1 constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments, begin to directly address Affirmative arguments - 2-3 minutes

Negative 2 constructive: State thesis and preview main points, define key terms, make arguments, begin to directly address Affirmative and Negative 1 arguments - 2-3 minutes

Break – 30 seconds

Negative 2 rebuttal 1: Rebuild case by addressing Negative 1 and Affirmative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning - 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Negative 1 rebuttal 1: Rebuild case by addressing Negative 2 and Affirmative arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning – 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Affirmative rebuttal 1: Rebuild case by addressing Negative 1 and 2 arguments and reinforcing your arguments with additional evidence and reasoning – 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Break – 30 seconds

Negative 2 rebuttal 2: Last speech! Rebuild case and note arguments Negative 1 and Affirmative have not answered. - 0.5 – 0.75 minute - 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Negative 1 rebuttal 2: Last speech! Rebuild case and note arguments Negative 2 and Affirmative have not answered. - 0.5 – 0.75 minute - 0.5 – 0.75 minute

Affirmative rebuttal 2: Last speech! Rebuild case and note arguments Negative 1 and 2 have not answered. - 0.5 – 0.75 minute – 0.5 – 0.75 minute