

# Parliamentary Debate Guidelines

There are a few differences between last year's Team Debate style and this year's Parliamentary Debate style, especially in my class. Read the guidelines below to familiarize yourself with the changes.

## Question Is Now Resolution

Rather than answering a question, in parliamentary debate, you will either be proposing or opposing a resolution. In other words, the debate topic is framed as a statement of fact, with one team agreeing with that statement and the other disagreeing with it. For that reason, affirmative and negative are now proposition and opposition, and the goal is not to answer the question but to resolve the resolution.

## Now With More Positions!

Instead of only being on one team or the other, there are now differences between the two members of each team. On the proposition side, there will be a Prime Minister and a Member of Parliament. On the opposition side there will be a Leader of Opposition and a Member of Opposition. While all the debaters will participate in the construction of arguments, only the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition will participate directly in the rebuttal. However, this means the two team members are required to collaborate before and during the debate on the substance of the rebuttal, since those points will count toward the team as a whole. You are strongly encouraged to write notes to each other during the debates in order to prepare for the rebuttal.

## Timing Is Everything

For the construction of arguments, each member will have two minutes to speak. For the rebuttals, the prime minister and the leader of the opposition will both have two one-minute rebuttals.

## Judge Not Lest Ye Be The Judge

In place of moderators, parliamentary debate has judges. Usually, this position is very similar to moderator, but for our class specifically, there will always be two judges, and those two judges will judge for all three of the debates. They will be responsible for preparing for all three equally, and their final grade will be the average of their three scores.

## Points of Information

At the end of each construction, the opposing team will be permitted, but not required, to offer one point of information to the other team. For our purposes, a point of information may only be used to ask for clarification of information or to challenge the accuracy of information. A point of information may not be used as a premature rebuttal to argue against the presenting team. When a point of information is offered, the judge will have the power to decide whether or not the point is in order. If it is in order, one member of the presenting team must respond. If the opposing team does not offer a point of information, the judge may offer a point of information, and is encouraged to do so. Points of information may be no longer than 15 seconds. Responses may be no longer than 30 seconds.