

# Fundamentals of Debate Coaching Training

## ASSESSMENT: KEY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) What two speeches make up the Negative Block?**

The 2NC and the 1NR.

**2) How long are constructives, rebuttals, and cross-ex in HS debate? In middle school debate?**

HS

Constructives -- 8 min.

Rebuttals -- 5 min.

Cross-ex -- 3 min.

MS

Constructives -- 5 min.

Rebuttals -- 3.5 min.

Cross-ex --1.5 min.

**3) What is an "RFD" on a debate ballot, and what should it be based on?**

RFD is a "reason for decision" and it should be based on which team advocates the preferable policy option, based on the arguments and evidence presented in the debate -- unless the affirmative is non-topical, an initial procedural question.

**4) What arguments (in which speech) provide the structure of most debating on off-case issues? What arguments (in which speech) provide the structure of most debating on case issues?**

The numerical arguments made in the 2AC structure the remainder of the debate on off-case issues. The numerical arguments made in the 1NC (or in MS, possibly in the 2NC) structure the remainder of the debate on case issues.

**5) How are team seedings (or rankings) determined when teams have an identical win-loss record (e.g., 4-1) at the end of the prelim rounds?**

Seeding ties created by identical win-loss records are broken by speaker points.

**6) What are the two off-case stock issues that the affirmative must win to win a debate round?**

Desirability and Topicality.

**7) What are the three negative options?**

Case attacks, disadvantages, and topicality violations.

**8) Distinguish between a solvency take-out and a solvency turn.**

A solvency take-out argues that the affirmative plan wouldn't solve the harms. A solvency turn argues that the affirmative plan would make the harms worse than they are in the status quo.

**9) What is a "cite" and what follows a cite in a piece of evidence?**

A cite -- short for "citation" -- is the source of the text in a piece of evidence. A cite includes author, qualifications, date, and publication site. The quoted text follows the cite.

**10-11) Identify and define the two core components that uphold the rigor and value of academic debate.**

The two core components that uphold the rigor and value of academic debate are the principle of refutation and the evidence standard. The refutation principle says that all arguments made in a speech must be responded to by the other team, and that if an argument isn't answered it is considered to be conceded. The evidence standard in academic debate requires that all arguments that can be credibly denied by the other team must be supported by textual evidence.

**12) What is it essential to flow – i.e., to get on one's flow sheet?**

The argument labels or tags -- sometimes also called the claims (which are supported by evidence and warrants).

**13) Describe what is meant in academic debate by "silence = assent".**

"Silence = assent" means that if a debater doesn't respond to an argument, and is silent in the face of the argument, she is considered to have conceded it or assented to it. This principle is closely connected, obviously, to the refutation principle in academic debate, and helps enforce the critical thinking about one's opponent's arguments -- so important to debate's rigor and value.

**14) What are the four burdens of a disadvantage? Provide a one-line definition for each.**

**Uniqueness** -- the argument that the status quo will (narrowly) avoid the impact, implying that if the plan causes the impact to occur, it is a unique cause.

**Link** -- the argument that the plan initiates a series of events that cause the impact.

**Internal link** -- the argument that connects the link to the impact -- i.e., lays out the series of events.

**Impact** -- the ultimate negative consequence caused by the plan.

**15) Why is it important to have a Squad Guidelines, and name two guidelines commonly included.**

Squad guidelines are an important instrument in building a debate program culture. Two commonly included guidelines are a practice attendance requirement and a tournament attendance requirement. Other common guidelines include debate team officers, warning against dropping from a tournament at the last minute, pick-up rules for getting back from tournaments.

**16) What are the Harms in the Aquaculture case?**

Environmental disaster and economic collapse.

**17) Identify one non-uniqueness answer to the Mid-Term Elections Disad?**

Non-unique: the Republicans are already going to win back the Senate in the status quo.

**18) What is the purpose of Standards in a Topicality Violation? Why does the negative include Standards in their T violation?**

In a topicality violation, standards provide the judge with reasons to prefer one side's interpretation over the other side's. They attempt to resolve the clash between competing interpretations of a word or phrase in favor of the team advancing them.

**19) Distinguish between a case and a plan in debate.**

A plan is the policy change -- often a very briefly-worded law -- that the affirmative advocates. The case is the 1AC (all of it but the plan) -- the arguments that justify or defend the plan.

**20) Explain how the analysis of text is involved in competitive academic debate. How can thoughtful, close reading of text help a team win a debate round?**

Debaters analyze text particularly in rebuttals, as they try to convince the judge that their arguments are better supported than their opponent's arguments. Close reading and analysis of textual evidence is the heart of strong rebuttals in competitive academic debate.