

Name _____

Date _____

ThinkCERCA™

PART 1 DEBATE RESEARCH

Debate question:

Affirmative Reasons and evidence supporting a **yes** answer to the question

Reason 1 and evidence

Reason 1 and evidence

Reason 1 and evidence

Rebuttal notes

Negative Reasons and evidence supporting a **no** answer to the question

Reason 1 and evidence

Reason 1 and evidence

Reason 1 and evidence

Closing Argument Notes

DEBATE PROTOCOL

A debate is a very structured discussion between two teams, one representing the **yes** side and one representing the **no** side of an issue.

A complex issue usually has more than two “sides” to it. After the debate, you can consider everything you heard to make an informed opinion.

Prepare

In order to win, you must try to anticipate, or guess in advance, what you think your opponents will say so you can strategize how to be more convincing with your own points. You must also try to anticipate what the opposing team’s rebuttal to your points might be, so you can protect yourself. This means you must be very familiar with both sides of an issue.

Listen

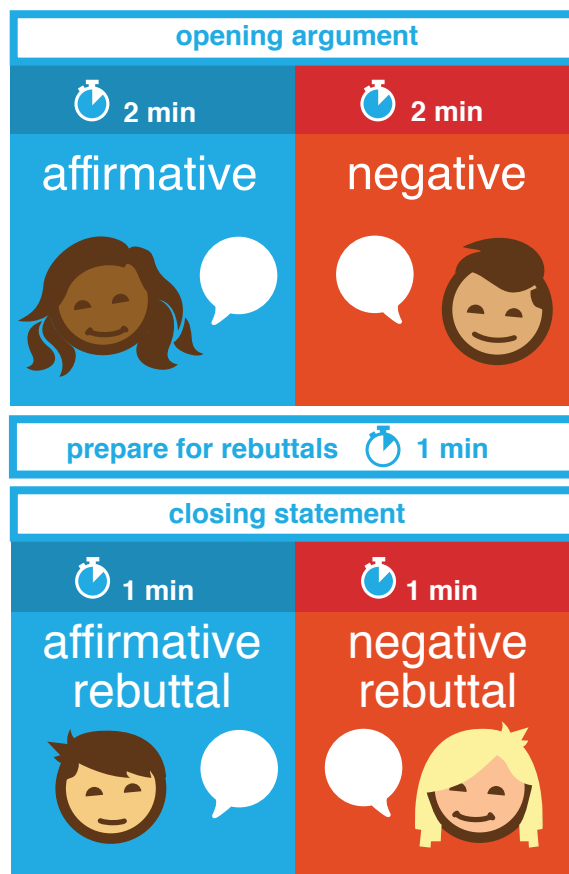
As part of the debate format, you must offer a rebuttal to the opposing team’s strongest points. The only way to win is to listen carefully to your opponents. And you can only help teammates if you listen to them.

Take notes

Note taking helps you remember your main reasons and evidence. It helps you plan your rebuttal better. It helps you turn the debate into a piece of writing later. And it helps you learn and remember.

Speak respectfully

You might be on the opposite side of the issue as your classmate, but that doesn’t mean you can’t express your ideas nicely. Even competitive debate teams are guided by respect, calm, and reason. The only way to win is through reason.

Debate Structure

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PART 3 POST DEBATE GAME REFLECTION

Directions After discussing the debate with your class, write down one or two of the strongest points you heard on each side. Include evidence from the text.

Debate Reflection Strongest Points	
<p>Affirmative (yes arguments)</p>	<p>Negative (no arguments)</p>
<p>Did your opinion on the subject change? If so, how? If not, why do you think it did not?</p>	
<p>Did you learn more about the subject? If so, what did you learn? If not, what might have helped you learn more?</p>	