

THE ***GROUP NORMS***

1. Debate the idea, not the person.

Disagree with someone's argument without insulting, teasing, or attacking them.

2. One mic at a time.

Let others finish speaking. No interrupting or talking over someone.

3. Listen to understand.

Pay attention to what someone is actually saying, not just what you want to say next.

4. Keep it respectful.

No name-calling, mocking, yelling, or inappropriate comments. Challenge ideas with curiosity.

5. Some topics have boundaries.

We can debate lots of things, but we will not debate anyone's identity, humanity, rights, or whether a group of people deserves respect.

6. What happens in debate stays respectful outside of debate.

Someone arguing a position during an activity does not necessarily mean they personally believe it.

HOW TO ***DEBATE***

1. Hear the Hot Take

Today's debate topic will be announced. Take a minute to think about your opinion.

2. Pick a Side (2 minutes)

Decide whether you are FOR or AGAINST the hot take. Sometimes, you may be assigned a side you don't personally agree with!

3. MOVE! (1 minute)

Move to the FOR or AGAINST side of the room. Once you choose your side, that becomes your debate team for this round.

4. Build Your Case (7 minutes)

Work with your team to come up with:

Your main argument

2-3 reasons that support it

Examples or evidence

Possible arguments the other side might make

5. Opening Arguments (3 minutes per side)

Each side gets a chance to explain its position. Listen carefully because you'll need to respond!

6. Rebuttal Time (2 minutes per side)

Respond to the other team's arguments. Explain why you disagree or point out something they may not have considered.

Try: "I understand your point, but..." or "Another way to look at that is..."

7. Ask Questions (4 minutes)

Each side can ask the other team questions. Good questions help you understand their reasoning or challenge their argument.

8. Make Your Closing Argument (2 minutes per side)

Give your strongest reasons one last time. Keep it short, clear, and convincing.

9. Vote & Reflect (2 minutes)

Which side made the strongest case? You can vote for a team even if you personally disagree with their position!

Remember: A great debater doesn't just talk. They listen, think, question, and respond.