



Debate

Purpose

1. To promote deeper study of Scripture as it relates to life's issues.
2. To promote development of a deeper understanding of both sides of a debate issue.
3. To promote the participant's ability to follow standards of procedure, to keep the discussion within bounds and ensure a fair hearing to both sides of a debate issue.
4. To improve skills in unrehearsed or improvised speaking with little preparation, so that participants learn to think on their feet and adapt their presentation to that of their opponent.
5. To promote research and understanding of questions that may arise regarding the debate issue.
6. To develop the following skills in critical thinking:
 - Understanding and application of the principles of logical reasoning in a debate setting.
 - Judgment or insight regarding a debate proposition.
 - Discovery of facts related to a debate issue.
 - Ability to research and study a subject.
 - Knowledge of the proof requirements of a proposition, including one or all of the following: examples, common sense, expert opinion, facts, scriptures, and statistics.
 - Ability to apply the tests of evidence.
 - Judgment or insight between valid and false reasoning.
 - Judgment or insight regarding false assumptions.
 - Recognition of non-legal persuasion.

Event Participation

1. Students in grades 7-12 may participate.
2. Two debaters (two boys together or two girls together) are required to form a debate team. Individuals who need a partner may contact the debate coordinator of their convention using a form that will be on the L2L website: <https://www.lads2leaders.com/forms/> The debate coordinator will attempt to match up teams from such individuals, but Lads to Leaders cannot guarantee that such a match will be possible. A student may debate as a single debater against either a two-person team or possibly another single debater, if they choose to register as a single or are unable to find a partner. IMPORTANT NOTE: A group will be allowed ONLY ONE single debater to be registered for the boys' debate or the girls' debate. Students may not opt to debate alone if there is another student willing to be their partner.
3. Boys and girls will debate separately. There will be no mixed teams, and no males will be allowed in the rooms where girls are debating. See page 95 of this rulebook for more information on this L2L policy. This policy does NOT restrict a mother from bringing her infant or toddler son into a girls' event room. Filming is allowed in this event so that family members and others may view them later. L2L reserves the right to withhold permission of filming in certain cases such as sensitive debate topics where the participant is giving the negative argument. Use of camera or cell phone cannot be disruptive to the event. Filming of other participants is prohibited unless permission is granted beforehand from the parents/guardians of the participant.
4. All students should study the *L2L Speech & Debate* book and lesson 13 of the *Field Book of Leadership: Revised* to develop their debating skills. Both may be ordered from the [L2L Online Store](#). It is very important that participants, parents, coaches, and judges watch the [Event Training and Judging Videos on the L2L website](#).

Event Rules and Guidelines

1. The debate resolution may be either a policy or a values resolution. In values debate, the affirmative team argues for the proposition, while the negative team challenges the proposition. In policy debate, the affirmative team argues for the adoption of the resolution as policy, while the negative team argues against its adoption. The resolution may also be a truth/error topic such as baptism.
2. Teams: Each debate round will be between two teams of two speakers each. Each team will participate in two rounds, one on the affirmative side and in the other on the negative side. For single debaters, that student will present both speeches that would typically be presented by the two separate students. For example, if Johnny Smith is a single debater and has the Affirmative position, he will present both Affirmative Constructive speeches and both rebuttal speeches as shown in the list below and the diagram on a following page. The length of the debates will be the same whether the teams have one or two team members.
3. Seating: The following diagram indicates the location of principal participants in the debate.



4. The following schedule is to be used (this entire arrangement represents one round):
 - First affirmative constructive 5 minutes
 - First negative constructive 5 minutes
 - Second affirmative constructive 5 minutes
 - Second negative constructive 5 minutes

Five (5) minute break between constructive speeches and rebuttals.

- First negative rebuttal 3 minutes
- First affirmative rebuttal 3 minutes
- Second negative rebuttal 3 minutes
- Second affirmative rebuttal 3 minutes

A flowchart example of this schedule follows this section.

5. **First affirmative constructive:** States a reasonable interpretation of the resolution, and represents prima facie case for the adoption of the resolution (a case which, if not challenged, would lead a reasonable man to support the resolution). A summary of what the second affirmative will present may also be included. The affirmative team has the burden of proof in favor of the resolution.
First negative constructive: Offers arguments against the adoption of the resolution, and may respond directly to the first affirmative. The negative team must either use the affirmative team's interpretation of the meaning of the resolution, or else show that interpretation to be unreasonable. The negative team must disprove the resolution.
Second affirmative and negative constructive: Complete the constructive arguments of the respective teams, and present a brief summary of the team's position. These speakers may also offer refutation of previous speakers.
Rebuttal speeches: Rebuttal speeches focus the debate on contested issues, as the speakers attack opposing arguments and defend their own. No new issues or arguments may be brought up in rebuttal speeches, but new evidence may be introduced to support or refute any claim introduced in any constructive speech.
6. **Visuals:** Any visual aids used in the debate must be visible to both teams and the audience and must be left available for reference by later speakers. Posters or charts are to be left on display throughout the debate following their introduction. Electronic visual aids must be battery operated.
7. The use of electronic handheld reading devices is allowed for the purpose of reading scripture and/or lesson notes ONLY. The sound must be turned off. They must not be able to access the Internet. Electronic communications with other individuals inside or outside the room is prohibited during the debate.
8. The L2L National Service Center has research materials, books, and pamphlets available to assist with the study and preparation for Debate. Contact the office for details.
9. Refer to the Evaluation Forms section of this rulebook to see the forms that will be used by the judges in this

event. This will help the student in preparation for the event to see exactly what the judges will be looking for.

10. More information on this event and others, check out the videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Judging

1. One of the judges, previously designated as the room chairman, will preside over the debate. His duties include:
 - To briefly welcome those present.
 - To ascertain that a timekeeper is present and ask for a volunteer, if necessary.
 - To ask the speakers to introduce themselves, by name only, with no identification of their congregation or hometown.
 - When all judges, the timekeeper, and participants are ready, to call for the debate to begin.
 - When time is up on the last speech, to announce the end of the debate and to thank the speakers, timekeeper, and audience, but not to announce the judges' decision on the debate.
 - To take charge of the judges' score sheets and deliver them to the debate coordinator following the event.
2. Timekeepers
 - The timekeeper will be a volunteer from the audience, or, if necessary, one of the judges may also keep time.
 - The timekeeper will display silent signals for each minute of elapsed time, and an audible signal will be given at the end of each speaker's allotted time. When the timekeeper signals that time has expired, the speaker should stop speaking or otherwise be subject to penalties.
3. Penalties
 - Speakers will be penalized one point for each new issue introduced in a rebuttal speech.
 - Speakers will be penalized one point for each 30 seconds or part thereof over the time limit.
4. For more information on serving as a judge, check out the informative videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Judges' Instructions for Debate

1. Use one Debate Team Score Sheet for each team for the whole debate.
2. Write the speakers' names in the spaces provided.
3. Circle whether the team is on the affirmative or negative side.
4. Assign a numerical value 1-10 (10 being best) to each category covered on the form.
5. At the end of the debate, total the number of points for each speaker, deducting any penalties.
6. Transfer total points for individual speakers to the summary sheet.
7. Select the overall winning team in the debate. This should be the team which most effectively defended its assigned position on the resolution. It may or may not be the team with the most speaker points from the team score sheet. The winning team gets a 5-point bonus.
8. Add each team's total points, attach all score sheets, and turn in to the room chairman.

Awards

1. First, second, and third place awards will be presented to the highest scoring speakers.
2. First, second, and third place awards will be given to each member of the highest scoring teams.

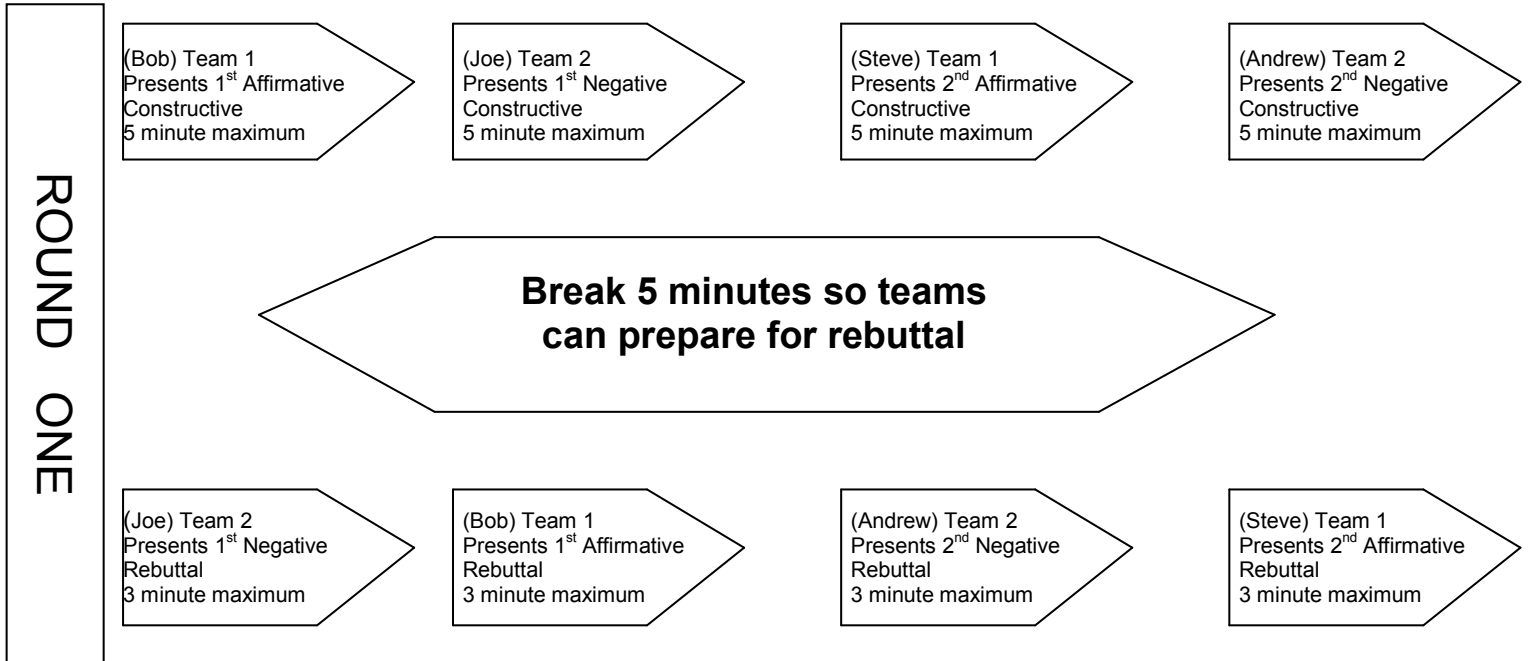
NOTE: THIS IS A MOCK DEBATE. JUDGES ARE NOT TO LET THEIR PERSONAL VIEWS ABOUT TOPICS INFLUENCE THEIR DECISION FOR OR AGAINST ANY TEAM. SCORES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEBATERS.

The following flowchart illustrates how the debate will proceed.

For illustration purposes:

Team 1 is Bob & Steve

Team 2 is Joe & Andrew



5 MINUTE BREAK BEFORE ROUND TWO

Note that Round Two may involve different teams than Round One.

