**Novice Quick Reference Guide**

**Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.**

Before the round, ask the judge for their paradigm (pronounced pair-a-dime) and if there's anything they prefer to see or don't like to see. Ask if splitting the negative block is alright. During the debate round, try to incorporate what the judge said they wanted to see.

**General Rules:**

* ALWAYS take notes (flow)
* Constructive speeches are for reading evidence and making new arguments
* Rebuttals are for analyzing, explaining, and evaluating how arguments compare against each other, not for reading evidence or making new arguments
* Cross-examination can be strategic, but make sure you understand all their arguments before you try to make your point!
* Always behave professionally when at a tournament- you never know when a future judge may be walking down the hall and getting a first impression of you
* You and your partner get 5 minutes of preparation time- at any time during the round, you can ask to take prep time to prepare for your next speech

**Step by Step Debate Round**

1. **First Affirmative Constructive** (1AC) 8 Minutes
   1. Read prepared 1AC (before round high light and time to make sure it's close to 8 minutes long)
   2. Be able to pronounce all words and explain concepts
2. Cross-examination[[1]](#footnote-1) (Second Negative Speaker (2N) asks First Affirmative (1A) questions
   1. 3 minutes
   2. Ask for any tags you missed, clarify any concepts you don't understand
3. **First Negative Constructive** (1NC) 8 Minutes
   1. Go through the negative file and pull out evidence that you think proves the affirmative wrong.
   2. Read the 1NC shell of a disadvantage, topicality and/or case arguments
   3. Try to signpost (let the judge know what kind of arguments you’re making as you read them)
4. Cross-examination (First Affirmative (1A) asks First Negative (1N) questions
   1. 3 minutes
   2. Ask for any tags you missed, clarify any concepts you don't understand
5. **Second Affirmative Constructive** (2AC) 8 Minutes
   1. Extend everything useful from 1AC (remember, it disappears if you don't extend it)
   2. Respond to every argument the 1N made, with cards or not
   3. If they read a disadvantage or topicality, you must answer those arguments with arguments of your own
6. Cross-examination (First Negative Speaker (1N) asks the Second Affirmative Speaker questions)
   1. 3 minutes
   2. Ask for any tags you missed, clarify any concepts you don't understand
7. **Second Negative Constructive** (2NC) 8 Minutes
   1. Split the block-decide which arguments you and your partner are each handling. Whatever you are handling, your partner should not worry about and vice versa. For the arguments you are covering do the following:
      1. Extend arguments and cards from the 1NC, especially those that the 2A disputed
      2. Answer all of the arguments from the 2AC
8. Cross-examination (Second Affirmative Speaker (2A) asks the Second Negative (2N) questions
   1. 3 minutes
   2. Ask for any tags you missed, clarify any concepts you don't understand
9. **First Negative Rebuttal** (1NR) 5 minutes
   1. Split the block- extend arguments and cards for the issues that your partner did not cover.
   2. If you have time, do a round overview, and explain how the key arguments in the round relate to another (even if we lost this one argument, we still win the round because we won this other, more important argument)
10. **First Affirmative Rebuttal** (1AR) 5 minutes
    1. This is the most difficult speech in the round in terms of time- you have to answer ALL the negative arguments in a very short amount of time.
    2. Most of this speech should be extending your previous arguments. Reading new evidence should be very rare. If you have time, emphasize or explain key arguments
11. **Second Negative Rebuttal** (2NR) 5 minutes
    1. Last negative speech
    2. Extend key arguments
    3. Tell the story of why the negative wins each argument
    4. Compare the key arguments in the round- which one is the most important? Why? Why do you win that argument? Why should you win the round?
12. **Second Affirmative Rebuttal** (2AR) 5 minutes
    1. Last speech
    2. Extend key arguments
    3. Tell the story of why the affirmative wins each argument
    4. Compare the key arguments in the round- which one is the most important? Why? Why do you win that argument? Why should you win the round?

Congratulations! You're done! Shake your opponent's hand, thank your judge, and move on.

**Debate Round Timeline**

1AC 8 minutes

CX 3 minutes (2N asks 1A questions)

1NC 8 minutes

CX 3 minutes (1A asks 1N questions)

2AC 8 minutes

CX 3 minutes (1N asks 2A questions)

2NC 8 minutes

CX 3 minutes (2A asks 2N questions)

1NR 5 minutes

1AR 5 minutes

2NR 5 minutes

2AR 5 minutes

Each team gets 8 minutes of prep time to use at their discretion throughout the round

**Glossary of Debate Terms**

**Affirmative**- the team that is proposing a plan and affirming the resolution

**Negative**- the team that argues that the plan/resolution does not improve current conditions

**Cross-examination (CX)**- time between constructive speeches where debaters ask each other questions, both to clarify and to challenges opponent's arguments

**Constructive-** The first four speeches in a round, used for presenting new information, arguments, and evidence.

**Rebuttal-** The last four speeches in the round, used for analyzing, comparing and summarizing the arguments in a round. This is the time to explain how each argument compares to the others, which arguments are most important, and why you win the round.

**Paradigm**- pronounced pair-a-dime. Point of view. Ask judges before you begin for their paradigm, or what they think is important in a debate.

**Case**- The plan and the evidence that supports it that the affirmative is proposing and defending

**Plan-** the action the affirmative is advocating

**Prep Time-** 5 minutes of time that teams use as they wish to prepare for speeches throughout the round.

**Solvency-** How well the plan solves the problems it is trying to address

**Signpost**- tell the judge & other debaters where on the flow you are going/which argument you’ll be talking about

**Extend**- repeat and/or summarize an argument your team made previously. If you do not extend arguments, they disappear off the flow- you have to bring up each argument in every speech in order for them to count

**Clash-** How much two teams directly disagree about a topic. A good debate has clash- if the two teams are simply talking about two different things, it isn't really a debate.

**Impact-** Why we care about an issue. You're solving for poverty- so what? Why does it matter? You’re solving for poverty because poverty affects the quality of life of poor people, it affects their access to quality food, housing, and healthcare. In this case, the impact of poverty is poor food, housing, and healthcare.

**Claim-** A concise, declarative statement.

**Warrant-** A reason, support, or evidence why a claim is true

**Splitting the Block**- A strategic use of the 2NC and 1NR- since you have two negative speeches in a row, many judges will allow each negative speaker to cover different arguments, and not consider them “dropped” as long as one team member extends them in their speech. This puts pressure on the 1AR, who has to answer 13 minutes of speech time in only 5 minutes. (This is balanced on the affirmative side by the affirmative speaking first and last). Ask your judge if it's ok if you do this.

**Dropped**- If an argument is not reiterated in every speech, it is considered dropped, which means that the team that made the argument is not allowed to use this argument in future speeches.

**Turn**- takes something that one team was addressing/solving for, and argues that the team is actually making the problem worse. Example: The affirmative solves for poverty through raising the minimum wage. The negative *turns* the case by arguing that the affirmative makes poverty worse by raising the minimum wage because poor people will lose their jobs.

**Analytic**- An argument without evidence, but with pure logic. While these are easy to disprove with evidence, they can also be powerful if the other team doesn't have evidence to counter them.

**Status Quo-** Latin for the existing state of affairs, or things as they are now. The affirmative presents a plan to change the status quo (change how things are done) and so a discussion of how things are currently often comes up in a debate round

**Flow-** notes from a debate round

**Tag Line-** concise summary of a piece of evidence

**Card-** A piece of evidence. They're called cards because evidence used to be written on index cards, and after we switched to typed evidence, the term stuck.

**Harms-** The problem(s) that the affirmative plan is trying to address

**Inherency-** Why the plan isn’t already happening (e.g. funding, politicians blocking it in Congress, technology, etc)

**Topicality-** Does the plan answer the resolution? If the plan does not fall under the resolution, then affirmatives are not allowed to run it. This makes sure everybody plays fair- the affirmative can lose on this alone.

**Significance-** The size or importance of the harms the affirmative is trying to solve for.

**Disadvantage-** An off-case argument made by the negative that argues that passing the affirmative plan sets a chain reaction in motion, leading to something bad like economies collapsing or war. Usually teams argue that the plan should not be passed because the risk that the disadvantage will happen is more important than the good things the aff argues the plan will cause. Disadvantages have three parts: Uniqueness, Link, and Impact.

**Uniqueness-** A description of what is currently happening in the status quo, so it is clear that the plan causes a change to happen.

**Link-** What the plan causes to happen, which leads to the impact.

**Impact-** The end of the chain of events that the plan sets in motion. The big, bad thing (like economic collapse or war) that the plan causes.

**On-Case-** Arguments directly related to the plan and evidence that the affirmative advocates in the 1AC. Typically, case is offense for the aff.

**Off-Case-** Arguments that are not directly related to the aff case- usually disadvantages and topicality. These are typically offense for the neg.

1. If you forget who is asking the questions in cross-ex, it's always the team that did not just speak, and the person who is not speaking next. You should be prepping while your partner is asking questions! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)