

NEISD

Speech Rules & Guidelines

Team Cross-Examination Debate

The official national high school topic shall be used in all T.F.A. team debate contests. Each speaker shall have eight minutes for constructive argument, alternating affirmative to negative. Following each constructive speech, one opponent shall cross-examine the speaker for three minutes. The questioner shall control the use of time and may interrupt the respondent, but may not comment on the answers or make any statement of his own views. Each debater shall question one opponent. Following the four constructive speeches and subsequent questioning, each speaker shall have five minutes for rebuttal, alternating negative to affirmative. Each team shall be allowed a total of eight minutes of preparation time per round. No grace time is allowed in debate beyond completion of a sentence. The judge may penalize for overtime through reduction in speaker points. Through this contest the student gains skills of analysis, perfects principles of argumentation, and learns effective research techniques in order to present the most effective case for or against a given proposition on a question of national or international implication.

Aff. Constructive speech	8
.....	minutes
Aff. is questioned by a Neg. speaker	3
.....	minutes
Neg. Constructive speech	8
.....	minutes
Neg. is questioned by an Aff. speaker	3
.....	minutes
Aff. Constructive speech	8
.....	minutes
Aff. is questioned by the other Neg. speaker	3
.....	minutes
Neg. Constructive speech	8
.....	minutes
Neg. is questioned by other Aff. speaker	3
.....	minutes
Neg. Rebuttal	5
.....	minutes
Aff. Rebuttal	5
.....	minutes
Neg. Rebuttal	5
.....	minutes
Aff. Rebuttal	5
.....	minutes
DEBATE PREP TIME	5
..... (per team)	minutes

(Each debater must do one and only one Constructive, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal.)