**Session 1 - Intro to Debate - Handout**

**What is a resolution?**

* It is arguable! - It has more than one answer. This produces “clash” in the debate - there is grounds for both sides to debate it.
* It seeks to solve a problem. It has significance!
* In a debate one team will SUPPORT the resolution and one team will be AGAINST the resolution.

**Fall 2022 Debate Topic - Resolved: “In the United States, the applications of artificial intelligence to K-12 education produces more benefits than harms.”**

**Two Sides of the Argument**

* **PRO** (AKA Proposition, AKA Affirmative)
  + Expresses SUPPORT for the resolution.
* **CON** (AKA Negative)
  + States a case AGAINST the resolution.
* *Who is Pro/Con is decided by the coin flip! You must be prepared to debate both sides of the argument, regardless of which one you personally support.*

| **Speech Times for Youth for Debate** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Speech** | **Time Limit** | **Responsibility of the Debater** |
| **Constructive Speech**  Team A Speaker 1 | 3 mins | Present the team’s case (Introduction and Contentions) |
| **Constructive Speech**  Team B Speaker 1 | 3 mins | Present the team’s case (Introduction and Contentions) |
| **Crossfire** | 2 mins | Speaker 1 from Team A and B alternate asking and answering questions |
| **Rebuttal Speech**  Team A Speaker 2 | 3 mins | Refute the opposing side’s arguments - explain why your opponents points are invalid and why yours matter more |
| **Rebuttal Speech**  Team B Speaker 2 | 3 mins | Refute the opposing side’s arguments - explain why your opponents points are invalid and why yours matter more |
| **Crossfire** | 2 mins | Speaker 2 from A and B alternate asking and answering questions |
| **Summary Speech**  Team A Speaker 1 | 2 mins | Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round  Recap of your position, defending against your opponent’s rebuttal, continue weighing impacts |
| **Summary Speech**  Team B Speaker 1 | 2 mins | Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round  Recap of your position, defending against your opponent’s rebuttal, continue weighing impacts |
| **Grand Crossfire** | 2 mins | All four debaters involved in the crossfire at one |
| **Final Focus Speech**  Team A Speaker 2 | 1 min | Explain reasons that you win the round  \*no new arguments, no new evidence!\* |
| **Final Focus Speech**  Team B Speaker 2 | 1 min | Explain reasons that you win the round  no new arguments, no new evidence!\* |

**Prep time -** each team receives 2 minutes of prep time, which they can use at any point during the round!

**Key Components of an Argument**

| **TERM** | **DEFINITION** | **EXAMPLE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLAIM** | **The main point** of the argument; what the debater seeks to prove true. Like a thesis statement! | Cell phone users cause more accidents than drunk drivers. |
| **WARRANT** | The logical justification for the claim; **why the claim is true.** | By definition, using a cell phone while driving distracts the user and thus decreases the chance they can react sufficiently to changing road conditions. |
| **WARRANT - DATA** | The **information or evidence** used to bolster the warrant. | According to a recent study cited in Time Magazine, cell phone users caused 13% more accidents than drunk drivers. |
| **IMPACT** | The reason the argument should matter to the audience. | Due to the great number of accidents caused by cell-phone users while driving, many drivers have their lives threatened. To save lives, we should ban the use of cell phones. |