

Guidelines for Microeconomics Debate, Fall Semester 2021

Structure

Debates will take place during the tutorial. Participating students will be divided into two groups, one representing the affirmative position and the other the negative position of the argument. The assignment of the topic, team, and position will be random. The structure/time allocation of the debate is as follows:

Opening statements	(5-8 min each group)
Discussion among debaters	(8-10 min)
Discussion open to class	(10-20 min)
Total time	(25-40 min)

Opening Statement, Group 1 (who goes first will be determined by coin flip)

In the Opening Statement, the group makes a position for their case, which will clearly outline their perspective on the problem. The Opening should include:

- A motivational statement (why is this issue important);
- Define the problem to which their resolution will be directed;
- Identify the problem cause.
- Clearly convey the basic line of argumentation of their position;
- Present a specific plan for the solution of the problem or its causes and emphasize the advantages of the proposed solution.
- Keep it short and concise, avoid repetition, and adhere to the principle that "less is more."

It is strongly recommended that one individual on the debate team give the opening statement. Alternatively, if the team so decides, multiple members can contribute in a tag-team fashion, but this risks an unfocussed, choppy, and repetitive delivery.

Opening Statement, Group 2

Ditto to content above.

Discussion among debaters

In this stage, the teams engage each other in discussion, ideally by posing critical questions to the opposing team. The focus is to attack the previously made case, and for the team making the case to defend from the criticism.

Discussion open to class

In the closing stage the class is given the opportunity to ask questions of the two teams.

Guideline for all participants

Some of the items to be debated are of a sensitive nature. It is therefore especially important to maintain a respectful demeanor with all those who voice opinions during the discussion, including the debaters and audience members. Avoid incendiary language and personal attacks. Also recall that the debaters have been randomly assigned the topic and their position on the matter.