



# Informal Debate

Buchholz



## 1. Purpose -

- To persuade the audience to accept your side of the debate
- To use strengthened vocabulary
- To apply the techniques and strategies discussed in class
- To professionally and calmly prove your point while being contradicted

## 2. Length -

- Your speech should be 3 minutes long to start.
- 2-4 minutes is your time frame, anything under 2 minutes cannot receive better than a D. This does not assure if you go over 2 minutes, that you will do better than a D. You must practice, practice, practice!
- You will also have a 1 minute closing argument to give your final say

## 3. Speech -

- You will choose a topic and a side
- You will research why your side should win
- You will research your opponent so you will be able to better counteract what they are saying.

## 4. Rules -

- You must state valid reasons on why your side is better than the other
- Don't always focus on the negative of your opponent. Highlight your strengths, address your "weaknesses" and mention how they could be strengths. Take your opponents strengths and turn them into weaknesses
- You must have a notecard, using the outline format. You should NOT have your entire speech written out on the notecard.
- Have a blank notecard to right down rebuttals. You will need this during the debate and for your closing arguments

## 5. Preparation -

- Computer Lab time will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speeches will start \_\_\_\_\_.

## 6. Helpful Hints -

- Review the techniques and strategies discussed in class.
- Practice! Practice! Practice
- Use strong vocabulary words (as used in the "This I Believe" speech)
- Practice! Practice! Practice
- Focus your information. Utilize the outline format.
- Practice! Practice! Practice
- Don't get caught up yelling at your opponent. This is not an argument; this is a debate. Stay calm.
- Practice! Practice! Practice



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Format for Debate Speech

Your Presentation (3 min)

Opponent questions for clarification only afterward

Opponent's Presentation (3 min)

Your questions for clarification only afterward

Prep time for questioning (1 min)

Questioning (1-10 min)

Prep time for conclusion (1 min)

Your Conclusion (1 min)

Opponent's Conclusion (1 min)