

# RULES AND GUIDELINES

## Debate Competition “Gender Equality”



### RULES OF DEBATE

#### 1. Ground Rules

The debating process begins with the forming of teams consisting of **four speakers**. There are specific rounds that alternate between affirmative and negative speakers.

#### 2. Courtesy Rules

Students must be courteous throughout the debate. Debaters must address the judge, the opponents and the class or audience. They may not interrupt a speaker at any time.

#### 3. Argument and Proof Rules

Students must **bring arguments and evidence** with them to the debate and must refer to them throughout. Debaters write their evidence on index cards, which must contain reliable sources.

#### **4. Rules for First Affirmative Speaker**

The rule for procedure of presentations is that an affirmative debater speaks first, for **five minutes**. He brings a **prepared speech** stating how the status quo is not working appropriately and a change is necessary. This debater has the burden of proof. He is then cross-questioned by a negative debater for **three minutes**.

#### **5. Rules for First Negative Speaker**

The first negative speaker speaks for **five minutes** and tries to show that there is no need for a change as proposed by the affirmative and that the solution offered wouldn't work anyway. The first affirmative cross-questions her for three minutes.

#### **6. Rules for Remaining Speakers**

The second affirmative debater speaks for **four** minutes. The first negative speaker then cross-examines the speaker **for three minutes**. The remaining speakers have a turn to speak for eight minutes and are cross-examined for three minutes by the opposition. Each speaker then gives a rebuttal of five minutes.

#### **7. Rules of Timing**

The rules as indicated for timing speeches and cross-examination are strictly enforced. Each speaker speaks for a set time, with a warning bell, to give them a little time to sum up and finish, then a final bell.

#### **8. Rules for the Judges**

There will be a Chair or Moderator who presides over the discussion. The top-performing teams based on points or score will move to the next round.

The judges keep a running account of each speaker's presentation and awards points accordingly. The judges announce the winning team.