

# The APES Debates

The APES Debates will provide an opportunity to display your skills of persuasion, logical reasoning, research, application of evidence and extemporaneous delivery before an audience of judges. There will be four debates occurring over two days. You will be assigned to a debate team composed of three or four students. Your team will be assigned a proposition and a position to support. You will not reveal your proposition or your position to anyone who is not a member of your team. Your team will research and defend the assigned position. The order of the debates will be determined at random. The format of the debates is outlined below. If the format is not followed the violating team will forfeit the debate.

## Format:

- 1) Affirmative: 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
- 2) Negative: 1 minute cross examination.
- 3) Negative: 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
- 4) Affirmative: 1 minute cross examination.
- 5) Affirmative: 2 minute rebuttal.
- 6) Negative: 3 minute rebuttal.
- 7) Affirmative: 1 minute rebuttal.

\*a maximum of 30 seconds will be allowed between sides and 15 seconds between stages

Total time: approximately 20 minutes

## Terms:

**Initial arguments**—During initial arguments, each team will present evidence in support of their position on the proposition. Each team should provide all of their evidence at this time, as no new evidence may be presented after the initial arguments.

**Cross examination**—At this time, a team will ask direct questions of their opponents. Questions can include requests for clarification, references, or any other information related to the evidence presented in initial arguments. Questions may not be related to anything not raised in the opponent's initial arguments.

**Rebuttal**—In their rebuttal, each team will have an opportunity to provide evidence which refutes their opponents' evidence. After the first rebuttal, the teams may also use the rebuttal to resurrect any arguments which were previously refuted.

**Strategy:**

Your team's goal in the debate is to utilize a preponderance of evidence, logical reasoning, and successful rebuttals of opposing arguments, to overwhelm your opponents. If the audience concludes that your team, and not your opponents' team, has successfully presented more valid arguments in support of your position while refuting arguments opposing your position, your team will be victorious. This is a competition, and you must be prepared to compete when the debate begins. Team members should be assigned to various roles during the debate, preparing arguments, cross examination, or listening for opposing evidence to refute. The same person(s) should not be responsible for initial arguments and cross examination.

**Notes:**

- No new evidence may be introduced after initial arguments.
- Teams may only be cross examined regarding the evidence they introduced in their initial arguments.
- The cross-examining team controls the flow of time during their cross examination.
- The team being cross examined must answer the question they were asked and stop. They can be cut off by the team in control.
- The audience will score the debate objectively, based on the number of arguments a team successfully carries through the debate in support of their position, and the number of their opponents arguments they successfully refute.
- The audience must consider any violation of the rules in their scoring of the debate.

**Grades:**

The audience will determine the winning team of each debate. The winning team will receive 50% credit. The second place team will receive 25% credit. Each team may also earn up to 50% credit for submitting their research notes and all other materials used in preparation for the debates. The second place team may earn up to 25% credit for writing an essay on another proposition which will be assigned at the end of the debates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Debate Proposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the Affirmative Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the Negative Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring (Use the back to score the debate, if you need more space use the space below.)

Which team won the debate? (circle one):                      Affirmative                      Negative

Briefly explain why that team won. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Debate Proposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the Affirmative Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the Negative Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring (Use the back to score the debate, if you need more space use the space below.)

Which team won the debate? (circle one):                      Affirmative                      Negative

Briefly explain why that team won. \_\_\_\_\_

**Population Debate Propositions:**

**Nations that rely on U.S. relief must have strict population-control policies in place.**

position: For

**Nations that rely on U.S. relief must have strict population-control policies in place.**

position: Against

**Illegal immigration to the U.S. provides otherwise unavailable low-wage workers that are an economic necessity.**

position: Agree

**Illegal immigration to the U.S. provides otherwise unavailable low-wage workers that are an economic necessity.**

position: Disagree

**Limiting population growth is necessary to protect the global environment.**

position: Agree

**Limiting population growth is necessary to protect the global environment.**

position: Disagree

**Other Propositions:**

**The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be developed for oil extraction.**

position: Agree

**The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be developed for oil extraction.**

position: Disagree

**The US Endangered Species Act is fundamentally sound.**

position: Agree

**The US Endangered Species Act is fundamentally sound.**

position: Disagree

**The cloning of all life, with the exception of humans, should be freely and actively pursued by the scientific community.**

position: Agree

**The cloning of all life, with the exception of humans, should be freely and actively pursued by the scientific community.**

position: Disagree

**Biotechnology is an environmentally sound way to improve the world's food supply.**

position: Agree

**Biotechnology is an environmentally sound way to improve the world's food supply.**

position: Disagree

**Anti-Smoking Laws are too restrictive.**

position: Agree

**Anti-Smoking Laws are too restrictive.**

position: Disagree

**other topics for late in the year:**

**Is Global Warming a real threat to the Earth?**

**Is Ozone Depletion a real threat to the Earth?**

**Should Nuclear Power be considered to replace more of our existing energy sources?**