



DEBATE PROGRAM (60 min)

Debate programs are a fun and entertaining way to introduce topics or do additional programs after a speaker or informational program. The debate program below should take 1 hour.

RULES

1. Teams may interrupt the opposing team to provide relevant information. They may not speak for more than 20 seconds and time is stopped during the interruption.
2. It is up to the judge whether they will allow heckling (brief word or phrase) or cheering. The teams can usually do this to help their argument, but not to disrupt the other team's speech.

INTRODUCTION (5-10 min)

1. Pass out the fact and discussion sheet
2. Split the Group into two teams. Make sure to also have judges and time keepers, they can be participants or staff members.
3. Pass out the in the **Debate Resources**.

STUDY AND PLANNING (15-20 min)

1. The groups should have some time to read, do their own research and plan their debate strategy and who will speak.
2. They will plan their arguments and prepare counter-arguments based on what they think the other side will say.

DEBATE (30 min)

1. Proposition team (pro universal health or large government involvement) presents case: 4 minutes
2. Opposition team (anti universal health care/government involvement) presents case: 4 minutes
3. Teams prepare rebuttal responses: 3 minutes
4. Opposition team presents rebuttal response: 3 minutes
5. Proposition team presents rebuttal response: 3 minutes
6. Teams prepare conclusions: 2 minutes
7. Proposition team presents concluding statement: 2 minutes
8. Opposition team presents concluding statements: 2 minutes

JUDGING (3 min)

1. Judges confer and decide which team presented the strongest argument.
2. Judges announce the winner of the debate.