

Impromptu debate – A quick how to

There will be three different resolutions, with $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to prepare for each. Once you have received your resolution:

- Work out what the issue is/Figure out what your "precious thing" is/Or answer the question of "why we are having this debate."
- Brain storm for ideas independently.
- Discuss the possible case lines. Possible examples to substantiate the case.
- Define the topic. The definition must be reasonable. What would an average person on the street think that the topic means? Avoid unreasonable definitions.
- Develop a theme, an idea which will be underlining both speeches.
- Decide who will take each argument
- Work on individual speeches, developing arguments and adding examples from life around you
- Before the end of the preparation session, come together again and go over definition, theme and arguments so that everyone is comfortable with the case.
- If there is time, try to anticipate what the other team is going to bring up for issues/arguments.

When it comes to evidence and specific examples, the most common are examples are the ones that you find in your everyday life. In the high school levels, stay away from personal experiences; examples "My family does this" or "I know someone who does that." You can still use your experiences as a basis, but generalize it more. The best preparation is to regularly watch or read the news.

An almanac and a dictionary are allowed into preparation time. Do not make notes in these books...NOTHING ELSE is allowed. No notes, no electronic devices, no package! Just blank paper and writing tools. (You may bring this check list in, as long as there is no other information on the page).

This is just a guiding package for students and there are many different examples that you can use. Not all of the topics will be in the debates.

During club practices, run time drills. Pick a topic and build a case in a half hour. Identify areas during the prep period that need more work. Just keep practicing on various topics. This is an excellent way to build a "case book" of common cases.