



# LD Debate

## The Basics

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# START SIMPLE


- It's a complicated game.
- You can start simple and succeed.





# HOW DOES DEBATE GO?





The  
resolution  
is **TRUE.**

**AFFIRMATIVE**

**NEGATIVE**

The  
resolution  
is **FALSE.**

Resolved: Cats should be valued above dogs.

Affirmative



Negative





**A TYPICAL  
ROUND.....**



**YOU.**

**Your opponent.**

**A JUDGE.**

# What do I actually do?

- You speak facing the judge.
- You take notes in columns so you can follow the “flow” of the argument.
- You read your case.
- You plan your arguments during prep time.
- You ask questions and answer the questions your opponent asks you in CX.





How do I  
WIN this  
game?







Resolved: Cats should be valued above dogs.

Possible Values for affirmative:  
cleanliness  
happiness  
peace\*\*\*\*\*  
economy (costing less)

What the affirmative would need to prove so far.....

- Peace is important.
- Cats are more peaceful than dogs.



**BURDEN OF PROOF**



Resolved: Cats should be valued above dogs.

Possible Values for negative:

fun

companionship\*\*\*\*\*

safety



What the negative would want to prove so far.....

- Companionship is more important than peace.
- OR....Cats don't provide peace.
- Dogs provide better companionship than cats.

**BURDEN OF CLASH**



# CRITERION

How will the value be upheld?

I value cleanliness, so I want a non-shedding pet.

I value happiness, so I want an affectionate pet.

I value peace, so I want a pet who has independence. \*\*\*\*\*

I value economy, so I want a pet who is cheap to maintain.



# REAL DEBATE

How will the value be upheld?

I value individual rights, so I want democracy.

I value human life, so I want safety.

I value progress, so I want scientific research.







**BACK TO OUR EXAMPLE:**

**Resolved: Cats should be valued above dogs.**

Negative Value: **Friendship**

**WHY?**



A young woman with a red bandana, smiling and carrying several binders. She is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. The background is a collage of various colors and textures, including a white and yellow patterned area.

**The negative says:**

Since I value  
**FRIENDSHIP,** I  
want a pet that  
provides  
**COMPANIONSHIP.**

# How could I prove my negative case?

Since I value **FRIENDSHIP**, I want a pet that provides **COMPANIONSHIP**.

1. **Friendship is the most important thing because it keeps up mentally healthy and happy.**
2. **Companionship is the purpose of a pet.**
3. **Without companionship, there is not friendship.**
4. **Companionship requires interaction between the person and the animal.**
5. **Cats eschew interaction; dogs seek interaction.**





# I negate. Resolved: Cats should be valued above dogs.

Since I value **FRIENDSHIP**, I want a pet that provides **COMPANIONSHIP**.

1. Introduction
2. Define terms
3. Identify, define and explain your value and criterion
4. Contention 1: Explain why the value and criterion go together.
5. Contention 2: Explain why your value proves the resolution false
6. Contention 3: Explain some big reason (impact) why you are right.



## HINTS FOR WRITING YOUR CASE:

1. **KNOW STUFF.** Read articles and the news about the topic. Collect evidence.
2. **READ.** Read philosophers that have written about your value. Collect evidence.
3. **WRITE TO BE HEARD.** Signpost your arguments.
4. **PLAN FOR THE AUDIENCE.** Think about judge adaptation.



# ORGANIZATION

- Header organization
- File system
- Page numbers
- Citations
- Dates
- Name and school name on papers
- Phone number of coach or school on items





# DEBATING THE ROUND

Page 5 of your  
handout,  
please.



## THINGS TO BRING....

### For debate...

- Paper to flow on
- Something to contain your files
- Your affirmative case and your negative case
- Your timer
- Evidence you have collected and filed

### For yourself...

- Water
- A sweater or nice jacket
- Clothes to change into for the ride home
- Healthy snacks
- School Work
- Games



# Competition Attire:



- Both: Business attire
- Both: Dress Shoes
- Boys: Dress Slacks, Shirt and Tie (if possible a suit jacket is nice)
- Boys: Clean Shaven, Professional Hair
- Girls: Dark-colored skirt or pants with blouse and jacket if possible
- Girls: Hair out of face
- Girls: Modesty is important particularly in relation to length and coverage because of the logistics of digging through files and getting in and out of desks.



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