

UIL Middle School Cross-Examination Debate Instructions for Coaches and the Contest Director

PURPOSE

CROSS-EXAMINATION DEBATE trains students to analyze a problem, conduct thorough and relevant research and utilize principles of argumentation and advocacy in orally presenting the most effective case for and against a given proposition.

Debate provides invaluable training in

- critical thinking,
- quick responses,
- defending worthy ideas,
- attacking invalid ideas.

It teaches students to tolerate other points of view. Debate exists only in democratic societies and no democratic society can exist without debate.

ADMINISTERING THE CONTEST

The following guidelines are to be used to administer the UIL CX Debate contest for middle school. The contest is patterned after the high school CX Policy Debate contest with a few modifications.

Please see detailed instructions in the **UIL CX Debate Guide, section 4, “How to Run the Meet”** that provides contest rules, personnel, rooms and judges required, procedures for pairing debates, tabulation and other details.

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/CXhandbook_24_25_Final.pdf

***Any modifications specific to the middle school competition are noted in these instructions and the 2024-25 Middle School Starter Packet linked below.**

Contest Rules

<https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/CXRulesandProcedures.pdf>

Guidelines for the Use of Computers in Debate

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/22-23_Computers_in_Debate_FINAL.pdf

2024-25 Middle School Starter Packet for Training Student Debaters

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate>

(located under Cross-Examination Debate column)

Recruiting and Training Judges

Many community persons may have been debaters in high school or college or have experience judging debate rounds. Local colleges may have a forensic program from which to recruit judges. You can also set up a pre-tournament training workshop for lay judges so they go into the rounds with necessary knowledge and confidence.

The judging instructions are included in the Appendix of the CX Debate Guide linked above. Copies should be generated for all judges at the contest.

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate/criteria-for-judging-cx-debate>

Additional materials may be accessed on the UIL Debate webpage under Resources for Judge Training <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate>

Ballots

A copy of the UIL Debate ballot can be found in the Appendix of the CX Debate Guide. The judge will need a ballot for each round to record feedback to debate teams, speaker points that typically range from 25-30 points, and “Reasons for Decision.” If you use this sample, once the judge has completed the ballot, tab room officials must generate copies for both the Affirmative and the Negative teams.

If you prefer triplicate copy ballots, you may purchase them from the link posted on the UIL website: <https://store.uiltexas.org/high-school-invitational-meet-material/>

Sweepstakes Points

Model points after high school debate event.

Welcome to the World of Academic Debate Competition!

Share with us your experiences, suggestions, feedback to help us grow participation in Middle School Policy Debate.

Questions?

Contact State Debate Director Jana Riggins.

jriggins@uiltexas.org

Additional Resources

A Guide to Cross-Examination Debate provides information on the terminology of debate, how to research the topic, affirmative and negative strategies, how to adapt to the judge, tournament procedures and UIL contest rules. It is available as a *free* download from the UIL website.

The Debate Kit includes four issues of the *Policy Debate Quarterly*. The issues are available in printed hard copy. Purchase from the UIL Online Store. The kit includes:

Quarterly #1: background on the current topic with an extensive definition of terms and a case list.

Quarterly #2: contains an annotated bibliography on the current topic, including Internet sources. It provides a starting point for student research on the debate topic.

Quarterly #3: provides affirmative case analysis on the current debate topic.

Quarterly #4: discusses negative strategy on the current debate topic.

Watch a Debate Round! Final rounds debated at the State Debate Championship tournaments are available in digital download format. Purchase from the UIL Online Store.

Ways to Win is a series of booklets that assist the debater in understanding specific skills essential to successful debating.

CX Debate ballots may be ordered on the Invitational Meet page of the online store.

Policy Debate for a Middle School Event: Dr. Rich Edwards, UIL debate consultant.
https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/Edwards_Session_409_Middle_School_Particiipation_in_Debate.pdf

Testimonials: Why Debate? Nicole Cornish, Rich Edwards. 2024.
https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/Cornish_Edwards_Session_312_Why_Debate_Testimonials.pdf

Internet Debate Research 2024. Rich Edwards. A guide on how to use the Internet effectively and efficiently with sources for the 2024-24 debate topic.
https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/Internet_Debate_Research_2024.pdf