

Debate Outline

1. Opening Statement
 - a. State your “thesis” or argument for your side
2. Main Arguments
 - a. Lay out your case for your side
 - i. Main Point
 1. Evidence – quotes and analysis
 2. Sources
 - ii. Main Point
 1. Evidence – quotes and analysis
 2. Sources
 - iii. Main Point
 1. Evidence – quotes and analysis
 2. Sources
3. Counter arguments/rebuttal
 - a. Counter argument
 - i. Rebuttal (why are they wrong)
 1. Evidence (why you are right)
 - b. Counter argument
 - i. Rebuttal (why are they wrong)
 1. Evidence (why you are right)
 - c. Counter argument
 - i. Rebuttal (why are they wrong)
 1. Evidence (why you are right)
4. Cross Examination
 - a. Question for other side to point out problems in their argument
 - b. “
 - c. “
5. Closing argument
 - a. Answer any lingering questions
 - b. Respond to any recent attacks from the other side
 - c. Restate the BIGGEST reasons why your side is right
 - d. Strong, confident, memorable ending

Examples:

1. Main Argument:
 - a. Main Point: Uniforms are important for learning
 - a. Evidence: Studies conducted at various private and public schools have found that students who were required to wear uniforms scored significantly higher on tests than students who did wear uniforms
 - b. This could be because students are able to focus better in class with fewer distractions. Students experience less peer pressure and overall enjoy the school experience more.
 1. Sources: Study at the University of Houston (https://www.utdallas.edu/research/tsp-erc/pdf/seminar_paper_imberman.pdf.)

2. Counterarguments:

Burnt	Insult the opposition and the audience during the process.	“Some students believe that it is unfair to be forced to wear uniforms, but they’re being immature. School is for learning, not fashion shows, and anyone who is that worried about an outfit has serious issues. ”
Golden brown – Perfect! 😊	State your side, <u>a</u> counterargument, <u>refute</u> it, <u>and</u> give sufficient evidence to PROVE why you’re right.	“ Uniforms are critical to learning. <u>Some students believe it is unfair for the administration to require uniforms because it stifles their creativity and personal expression.</u> However, the true purpose of school is to learn, and uniforms have been statistically shown to improve the learning environment. ”
Still gooey (almost...)	State a counterargument and state that you disagree.	“Some students believe that it is unfair for the administration to require uniforms, but the school has good reasons.”
Underbaked (bad)	Only state a counterargument, and fail to refute it.	“Some people believe that it is unfair to make students wear uniforms, and they have a point.”