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**Graphic Novels Table Debates**

**FORMAT**

In the most common Table Debates format, each side has two speakers. Each side’s speakers are divided as follows: one presents the case and closing statement, the other performs the cross-examination and presents the rebuttal. Each side gets two minutes of discretionary prep time.

A variation on this format is to involve eight students, four debaters per side, and have one student be assigned a single speaker position – on the affirmative: AC, ACX, AR, and ACS; on the negative: NC, NCX, NR, and NCS.

## **(AC) Affirmative Case 3 Minutes**

**(NCX) Negative Cross Examination 2 Minutes**

**(NC) Negative Case 3 Minutes**

**(ACX) Affirmative Cross Examination 2 Minutes**

**(NR) Negative Rebuttal 3 Minutes**

**(AR) Affirmative Rebuttal 3 Minutes**

**(NCS) Negative Closing Statement 3 Minutes**

**(ACS) Affirmative Closing Statement 3 Minutes**

1. The case should have two contentions, which are the main arguments for its side, supported by at least two pieces of evidence, and clearly organized.
2. The negative rebuttal should refute the affirmative case, and not defend or extend the negative case. It should do this by line-by-line refutation, emphasizing *responsiveness*.
3. The affirmative rebuttal has the challenging task of *both* refuting the negative case line-by-line, point-by-point, and defending the affirmative case against the negative rebuttal.
4. The closing statements should summarize and crystallize the main arguments in the debate, mitigate the strength of the opposing side’s case, and in particular extend one or two of their case’s contentions.

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| Affirmative Debater One | Affirmative Debater Two | Negative Debater One | Negative Debater Two |
| AC/ACS | ACX/AR | NC/NCS | NCX/NR |
| AC: The affirmative case is a prepared speech that contains the main arguments, called contentions, that support the resolution. Each contention is supported by evidence, with warrants that connect it to the argument. | ACX: Is a period of time in which the debater is allowed to ask questions about the other team’s constructive speech. Questions should set up rebuttal arguments by calling into question the evidence or logic of the other team’s contentions. | NC: The negative case is a prepared speech that contains the main arguments, called contentions, that oppose the resolution. Each contention is supported by evidence, with warrants that connect it to the argument. | ACX: Is a period of time in which the debater is allowed to ask questions about the other team’s constructive speech. Questions should set up rebuttal arguments by calling into question the evidence or logic of the other team’s contentions. |
| ACS: The affirmative closing statement evaluates the arguments and evidence in both cases in a way that favors the resolution. The ACS mitigates the negative case and explains and extends at least one key contention on the affirmative case, pulling together the debate’s narrative for the aff team | AR: The affirmative rebuttal first seeks to refute the negative case utilizing line-by-line responses to the negative case contentions. The rebuttal will then defend the affirmative case against what the negative rebuttal. | NCS: The negative closing statement evaluates the arguments and evidence in both cases in a way that disproves the resolution. The NCS mitigates the negative case and explains and extends at least one key contention on the negative case, pulling together the debate’s narrative for the negative team. | NR: The negative rebuttal has one sole purpose: to refute each of the contentions of the affirmative case. It does so using line-by-line refutation. This speech does not debate on the negative case flow. |