

## Policy Debate Quick Sheet

Policy debate is the grandfather of all debate; it is the oldest form of speech competition (from 1925). Teams of two advocate for and against a resolution that calls for policy change by the United States federal government.

The 2016-2017 high school resolution is:

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic and/or diplomatic engagement with the People's Republic of China.

Speech Type	Speech Times
First Affirmative Constructive (1AC)	8 minutes
Cross-examination of First Affirmative by Second Negative	3 minutes
First Negative Constructive (1NC)	8 minutes
Cross-examination of First Negative by First Affirmative	3 minutes
Second Affirmative Constructive (2AC)	8 minutes
Cross-examination of Second Affirmative by First Negative	3 minutes
Second Negative Constructive (2NC)	8 minutes
Cross-examination of Second Negative by Second Affirmative	3 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal (1NR)	5 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR)	5 minutes
Second Negative Rebuttal (2NR)	5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR)	5 minutes

Free Evidence and Gases <https://openev.debatecoaches.org/>

Free Curriculum Options <http://www.debatecoaches.org/new-page/>

Types of Arguments: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Policy\\_debate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Policy_debate) (Yes, Wikipedia)

There are many free instructional videos on Youtube!

Some terms you may hear in the debate:

- 1) **TOPICALITY:** The Negative will attempt to argue that the Affirmative team does not fall under the rubric of the resolution and should be rejected immediately regardless of the merits or advantages of the plan. This is a type of 'meta-debate' argument, as both sides then spend time defining various words or phrases in the resolution, laying down standards for why their definition(s) or interpretation(s) is superior
  - a. Does the affirmative plan reasonably adhere to the limitations of the topic?
- 2) **SIGNIFICANCE:** How big is the problem?
  - a. Is there a justification to change from the present system?
- 3) **INHERENCY:** This is what is stopping the problem from being solved.
  - a. Is there a clear barrier, which prevents the present system from solving the problems, presented by the affirmative?
- 4) **SOLVENCY:** How will the problem will be solved.
  - a. Can the proposed plan solve the problems better than the present system?
- 5) **Advantages:** This is when the affirmative claims good effects from the implementation of their plan.
- 6) **DISADVANTAGES:** this is when the negative team contends that the affirmative plan causes undesirable consequences. Do the advantages of the affirmative proposal outweigh the disadvantages presented by the negative?
- 7) **Plan:** The action taken that the affirmative team believes will best support the resolution.
- 8) **Counter-plan:** The negative can present a counter solution to the affirmative case's problem which still goes against the resolution.
- 9) **Kritik:** The negative can claim that the affirmative is guilty of a certain mindset or assumption that should be grounds for rejection. Kritiks are sometimes a reason to reject the entire affirmative advocacy without evaluating its policy.

Policy Debate has a long rich history. It is currently one of the least populated debate events because many schools do not offer it and it's misunderstood for being too technical and jargon heavy, but with so many free resources online this is the best time to try it out! The debate, political and research knowledge needed to be successful in policy debate can be one of the quickest and best ways to become the best debater you can be! ☺ ☺ ☺