

## Debate Structure Outline

Rev. 2008/04/21

### Debate Questions (samples):

Should Abortion be Legal?

Is Elective Abortion an Immoral Act?

Should the Current Legal Status of Abortion in Canada Change?

Abortion: Human Right or Human Rights Violation?

### Debate Speakers:

<Name>, against abortion

<Name>, for abortion

### Role of Moderator:

- Enforce time limits
- May *not* ask question of the participants
- The moderator will make the following statement at the beginning of the debate:

“During the cross-examination period, the participant asking the questions controls that time and may interrupt his opponent. This is not rude; it is how cross-examination is done. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the debate, but will be asked to line up in the right aisle for <Name> and the left aisle for <Name>. During the question and answer period, audience members may ask one question, but may not make speeches or offer statements. The questions must be focused, short and to the point, and require no background information to set up. If the questioner rambles, I will ask him or her to come quickly to the point. If the question cannot be asked within 20 seconds, I will dismiss the questioner. In addition no rude behavior by the audience will be tolerated.”

### Non-negotiable Debate Rules:

- 1) Each side gets equal time to present his/her case,
- 2) Each spokesperson may present whatever materials he/she wishes during his/her allotted time, including visuals, with no threat of censorship from the opposing spokesperson. The presentation of these materials is to be used within the speaker's time allotment.

### Proposed Debate Format (90 minutes):

Introduction of topic and speakers by the moderator (5 minutes)

Opening statement: <Name of Person A> (20 minutes)

Opening statement: <Name of Person B> (20 minutes)

Cross examination: <Name of Person A> (7 minutes)

Cross examination: <Name of Person B> (7 minutes)

Rebuttal: <Name of Person A> (10 minutes)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person B> (10 minutes)

Closing statement: <Name of Person A> (5 minutes)  
Closing statement: <Name of Person B> (5 minutes)

Close of debate by the moderator – start of questions from audience (1 minute)

**Questions from the audience** (24 minutes, recommended):

The number of questions may be expanded or curtailed depending on the number of questions and time constraints. The plan, however, will be to accommodate eight questions – four for each speaker. Speakers will have two minutes to answer questions addressed to them, while the opposing speaker will have one minute to make a rebuttal. The number of questions taken must be an even number to ensure that each speaker will have the same number of questions directed to him/her.

Answer: <Name of Person A> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person B> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person B> (2 min.)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person A> (1 min.)

Answer: <Name of Person A> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person B> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person B> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person A> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person A> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person B> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person B> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person A> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person A> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person B> (1 min)

Answer: <Name of Person B> (2 min)  
Rebuttal: <Name of Person A> (1 min)

Closing of debate by moderator (1 min)

The above is to be mutually agreed upon, and once it is, changes are to be made only with the agreement of the proponent and opponent.