Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Competitors’ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Debate**

(1) Write the proposition below:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(2) I am (circle one)

Affirmative Negative

(3) Restate what you believe below (Affirmative: start with the phrase “Yes’, Negative, start with the phrase “No”):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(4) The 5-7 reasons why I believe this are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **The reason:**  *This is just like a main point with a supporting detail!* | **Source:**  *Make sure it’s a reliable source!* |
| A |  |  |
| B |  |  |
| C |  |  |
| D |  |  |
| E |  |  |
| F |  |  |
| G |  |  |
| H |  |  |

Now, you must find research to prove these opinions and turn them into facts. Tips:

* Look for websites that end in .edu, .gov, and .org
* Avoid website such as Wikipedia, WikiAnswers, Yahoo Answers, and other message boards where users create the content
* Look for facts (not opinions!) from respected people (educators, doctors, politicians).
* Look for statistics, stories, polls, quotes, and other factual sources

(5) The 4-5 flaws in my argument (rebuttals) that I need to prepare for are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rebuttal:**  My opponent said/may say… | But they are wrong because…. | **Check here if it needs to be read** |
| A |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |
| C |  |  |  |
| D |  |  |  |
| E |  |  |  |
| F |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |
| H |  |  |  |

Now, you need to research how you will defend yourself from these attacks. See the “tips” section above for help with this process.

Reminder:

***Not Reliable More Reliable Very Reliable Most Reliable***

Your Opinion Many opinions Professional’s Statistics and studies Facts

(polls, surveys) educated opinion (laws, well supported)

(6) Time to prepare for the debate! You will need a sheet of paper folded in half for your opening and closing statements

**Opening Statement (Just like an Introduction)**

*Hook:* The most persuasive statement you make in your debate.

*Purpose Statement:* What will you convince us of in your speech?

*Connecting Statement:* Why are you going to win this debate?

**Example:** One out of three people who smoke will die from it. Today, I will persuade this audience that smoking should be banned in America so thousands of Americans will not die this year. With over 10 supporting ideas from over 15 different scientific sources, I will win this debate.

**Closing Statement (Conclusion**)

*Restate Topic:* What did you just convince us of?

*Restate Support:* Summarize how many points and/or sources were used

*Restate Rebuttals:* Summarize how many rebuttals and/or sources were use

*Haunting Statement:* In what ways do you know you beat your opponent (i.e. they used unreliable sources, the same source, didn’t have many rebuttals). You may need to leave this blank and fill it in during the debate!

**Example:** Today, I convinced you that smoking should be banned in America. I had ten different pieces of support and replied to every rebuttal my opponent brought up with many sources from government and non-profit research. I won against my opponent because he/she had only three pieces of support and used only one source—wikipedia. Thank you.

***Tips:***

* During the speech have a pen or pencil to check the rebuttals you’ll need to say in your speech
* During the speech have a pen or pencil to write down notes on what your opponent has said. Things to write down:
  + A main point you don’t have a rebuttal for…yet!
  + A source that they did not cite or did not get from a reliable source. That makes it invalid!
  + When they don’t rebut any of your main points. If they don’t rebut it, they must be agreeing with you!
  + If any of their main points start with “what if”. That’s called a supposition—we can’t assume anything!
  + Any new ideas you have while you’re listening to them speak