

Kurdistan Region - Iraq

University of Cihan – Sulaymaniyah

Department of Architectural Engineering



Academic Debate

1st Lecture

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Debate Basics

(In other words . . . how to present arguments
like a professional!)

What is a Debate?

o A debate is an organized argument between two teams:

- o The AFFIRMATIVE team
- o The NEGATIVE team



o Teams debate an issue called a **RESOLUTION** or an **IDEA**.

What is the **Resolution**?

- o The point on which both parties have agreed to debate
- o The topic of the debate
- o Always stated in the positive
- o Begins with the phrase (BIRT):
Be it resolved that ...



Teams: The Affirmative

- o The **AFFIRMATIVE** team argues in favor of the resolution or idea.
- o In other words, they believe that there should be a **change** to the current system (status quo).

Teams: The Negative

- o The **NEGATIVE** team argues against the resolution.
- o They believe that the current system, or **status quo**, is just fine the way it is – **no** changes are necessary.



The Structure of a Debate

- o A debate is divided into several different parts:
 - o **Constructive Speeches**
 - o New ideas/arguments/plans are introduced
 - o **Discussion Period**
 - o Teams ask and answer questions (in other words, **argue!**)
 - o **Rebuttal (Opposition) Speeches**
 - o Last chance to convince the judges their side is the best choice (no new ideas are introduced)

The Structure of a Debate

- o Each team usually has two members, and each debater has a different role in the argument:
 - o 1st Affirmative Speaker
 - o 2nd Affirmative Speaker
 - o 1st Negative Speaker
 - o 2nd Negative Speaker
- o There are also other people that help to keep the debate organized:
 - o Chairperson
 - o Time keeper
 - o Judges



The Structure of a Debate

- o When a debate is based on Two man teams, the debate follows this schedule:
 1. 1st Affirmative Constructive speech
 2. 1st Negative Constructive speech
 3. 2nd Affirmative Constructive speech
 4. 2nd Negative Constructive speech
 5. Discussion/Question Period (both teams)
 6. Break
 7. Negative Rebuttal Speech (Negative speaker)
 8. Affirmative Rebuttal Speech (Affirmative speaker)

The Structure of a Debate

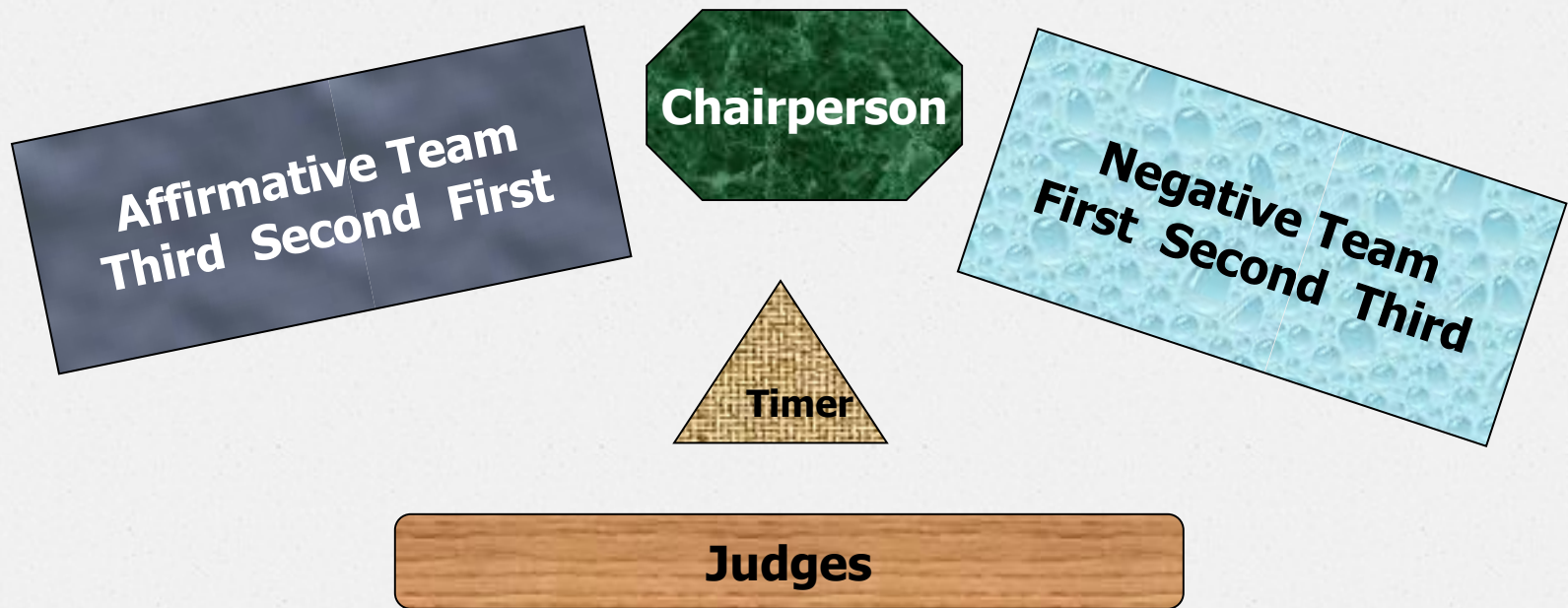
o Sometimes, your chairperson may decide to use THREE man teams. The schedule would look like this:

1. 1st Affirmative Constructive speech
 2. 1st Negative Constructive speech
 3. 2nd Affirmative Constructive speech
 4. 2nd Negative Constructive speech
 5. 3rd Affirmative Constructive speech
 6. 3rd Negative Constructive speech
 7. Discussion/Question Period (both teams)
 8. Break
 9. Negative Rebuttal Speech (Negative speaker)
 10. Affirmative Rebuttal Speech (Affirmative speaker)
- * Speech times are shorter with three man teams.



The Structure of a Debate

- o Teams sit in a specific arrangement in a debate.
- o There are special places for the chairman, time keeper, and judges too.



The Affirmative Team

- o The affirmative says that the status quo be changed, so they must identify **WHY** the resolution is the only option.
- o These ideas are called **NEEDS FOR CHANGE**, and are necessary to the affirmative case.

The Affirmative Team

NEEDS FOR CHANGE

- o The affirmative team believes that the status quo is not satisfactory because of:.... The reasons.
- o As a result of the above needs for change, it is clear that the best alternative is

The Affirmative Team

- o Because the affirmative is proposing a change to the current system, they need to outline a PLAN for the new system.
- o **THE PLAN** describes how the affirmative plans to implement the resolution.

The Affirmative Team

THE PLAN

Describing the plan of change and how the resolution can be apply by showing the technics and the tools of this resolution.

The Affirmative Team

Review

- o The affirmative team has two main goals in a debate:
 - o Prove that the current system, or status quo, is not working by outlining **NEEDS FOR CHANGE**.
 - o Outline a **PLAN** that will be used to implement the changes that the affirmative case demands.

The Negative Team

- o The duty of the negative team is to reinforce the fact that the current system does not need to be changed.
- o The negative will present **CONTENTIONS(disagreement)** supporting the status quo as the best alternative.
- o **CONTENTIONS** are classified as any propositions made in the constructive speeches.

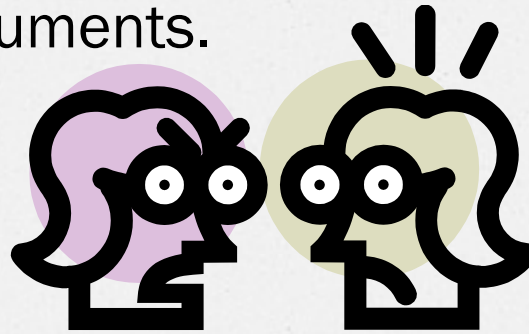
The Negative Team

CONTENTIONS

- o The negative team keeps that the status quo does not require changes because of :.....

Clash

- o Both the affirmative and negative teams must **CLASH**, or disprove the opposing teams arguments.



- o Clashing is an opportunity to address specific comments your opponent makes, and to prove that they are either incorrect or that their solution is not practical.

Clash

- o Each team keeps track of their opponent's argument using a ***FLOW SHEET***.
- o A flow sheet is a piece of paper where debaters write notes detailing their opponents key points and any faults they may find.
- o When it is time for a debater to clash, they refer to their flow sheet so they can repeat exactly what their opponents have stated.

Review

- o A debate is an organized argument based on an issue called a resolution.
- o The affirmative team argues in support of the resolution (for change).
- o The negative team argues against the resolution (for the status quo).

Review

- o A debate has three parts: constructive speeches, a discussion period, and rebuttal speeches.
- o The affirmative case is based on needs for change, the plan (contentions), and clash.
- o The negative case is based on contentions and clash.