Introduction to Debate

I. Vocabulary of debate:
   - Resolve—the issue up for debate. For example: The United States government shall abolish the legal production, sale, use, and manufacturing of all tobacco products.
   - Affirmative Team—This team is trying to prove that the resolve should be accepted.
   - Negative Team—This team is trying to prove that the resolve should be rejected.
   - Speakers—The members of the team who lay out the team’s argument—this will be broken up between two speeches—that of the 1st and 2nd speakers.
   - Cross Examiner—This team member will ask questions of the opposing side’s speakers. The goal of the cross examiner is to tear apart the argument of the opposing side and attack the credibility of the other side.
   - Rebutter—This team member speaks last for his or her team—he or she has the final chance to state why his or her team’s argument is valid and why the opposing team’s argument is not valid.
   - Clash—When speakers, questioners, and rebutters directly address and refute the opposing team’s argument. If you do not directly address and refute the opposing team’s ideas, then the idea is accepted and gives the opposing team credibility.

II. Structure of debate
   1. 1st Affirmative speech
   2. Negative team cross examines the 1st Affirmative speaker
   3. 1st negative Speech
   4. Affirmative team cross examines the 1st Negative speaker
   5. 2nd Affirmative speech
   6. Negative team cross examines the 2nd Affirmative speaker
   7. 2nd negative Speech
   8. Affirmative team cross examines the 2nd Negative speaker
   9. Negative Rebutter Speech
   10. Affirmative Rebutter Speech

III. How to win a debate
   - Layout an argument that is clear and convincing—filled with convincing facts and rhetoric, and delivered is a way that is easy for people to understand.
   - Be ready for attack. Know your argument so well that you can stand up under questioning.
   - Be ready to attack. Become familiar with the opposing team’s side, so that you can anticipate what they will argue—and then be ready with questions or evidence to refute their ideas.
   - Be polished, practiced, and polite. The presentation of yourself and your team will present an unspoken argument. If you look professional, people will be more likely to believe you and be less suspicious of you. If you sound like you know what you’re talking about and sound convincing, then people will think, “This guy/gal really knows his/her stuff—he/she must be right!” If you’re rude, no one will want to cheer for you and will look for reasons to defeat you.
Speakers:
Speakers should open with a strong sentence to gain audience attention. The address should have clearly recognizable points that should be strongly summarized in a firm conclusion in a final speech. Speakers need to finish within the allocated time.

Speakers will lose points if they are rude or sarcastic in any way, and they will lose points for every 15 seconds that their speeches are under or over their time allotment. Speakers will also lose points if they do not address the opposing team’s ideas or attempt to win by way of verbal trickery rather than logic and evidence.

If during cross examination, time is called while a Speaker is responding to a question, s/he may finish her or his response without penalty. If time is called before a Speaker has begun his or her response but after the question has been asked, the Speaker may not respond.

1st Affirmative Speaker
  A. Define the meaning of the terms of the resolve clearly and precisely. The definitions should be ones that will meet with general acceptance. This avoids having the debate degenerate into one on the meaning of the rather than on the arguments presented by the two teams.
  B. Give a general outline of the team's case and indicate the aspects of the subject to be discussed by each of the team members.
     E.g.: "We are affirming the proposition that marriage leads to divorce. As leader I shall show that only married people become divorced. My second speaker will indicate the reasons for this. And my third speaker will show that single people are free from the problems that lead to divorce.'
  C. Develop the introductory arguments for the side - this should represent some 60% of the address.
  D. Summarize.

1st Negative Speaker
  A. Consider the definitions given by the leader of the affirmative. If it is fair and reasonable it should be accepted - it will be difficult to create a viable alternative to a reasonable definition put forward by the affirmative. Remember, it is the resolve which is to be debated, not the definition. However, if the affirmative definition is selective and unreasonable it is possible to appeal to reason and seek to have the subject debated on what would be generally understood by the wording of the resolve.
  B. Outline the team's case and the allocation of each speaker's role.
  C. Rebut any major points put up by the leader of the affirmative that can be effectively countered.
  D. Be sure to introduce points that support the negative case.
  E. Summarize.
2nd Affirmative Speaker  
1. Second Affirmative  
   A. Re-emphasize major points of the 1st Affirmative Speaker.  
   B. Fully develop the major points of team's case - this is the major role of the second speaker and should occupy 75% of the speaking time.  
   C. Rebut any major points put up by the 1st Negative Speaker that can be effectively countered.  
   D. Summarize

2nd Negative Speaker  
A. Develop rebuttal of previous two affirmative speakers (up to 50% of speaking time).  
B. Add arguments supporting negative view.  
C. Support own leader's case.  
D. Summarize.

Cross Examiner  
The job of the Cross Examiner is to reveal weaknesses in the opposing team’s case. This can be done by revealing problems with the Speaker’s own team’s argument or by getting the Speaker to concede positives with the opposing team’s argument. The Cross Examiner will lose points for committing any of the “must NOTs” and if s/he fails to ask questions pertaining to the Speaker’s actual speech.

The Cross Examiner may:  
- Ask open-ended questions to ask a Speaker to expand on an idea  
- Ask yes/no questions, and politely remind the Speaker that s/he has only been asked a yes/no question.  
- Present a statistic or fact or statement and ask for the Speaker’s opinion on the statement.

The Cross Examiner may NOT:  
- Be rude  
- Mock the Speaker  
- Mutter under his or her breath  
- Cut off the Speaker (if the Speaker rambles on aimlessly, then s/he will be penalized)  
- Be sarcastic  
- Argue with the Speaker—the Cross Examiner may only ask questions. If the Speaker asks the Cross Examiner a question, then simply remind the Speaker that a Cross Examiner can only ask questions (and know that the Speaker will be penalized).  
- Introduce material that isn’t directly related to a question.

Rebuttalist  
A. Provide a convincing summary of own team's case - no new material allowable.  
B. Provide a forceful summary of rebuttal.  
C. Persuasive conclusion to convince audience of superiority of your side’s case.