

STUDENT HANDOUT

Lincoln-Douglas Style Debate Procedure

This style of debate has two sides. This style is very reliant on time and good decorum. The two sides of the debate are called:

Affirmative position – in favor of the proposition

Negative position – opposed to the proposition

Divide the following positions/jobs to your team members. Remember that all team members are equally responsible for the research on the position.

Affirmative Position	Negative Position
Lead Debater – presents the overall argument of the Affirmative position Name:	Lead Debater – presents the overall argument of the Negative position. Name:
Question Asker – Asks the Negative position team questions about its argument. Name:	Question Asker – Asks the Affirmative position team questions about its argument. Name:
Question Answerer – Responsible for answering questions about team's position. Name:	Question Answerer – Responsible for answering questions about team's position. Name:
Rebutter – Responds to the arguments raised by the questions. Name:	Rebutter – Responds to the arguments raised by the questions. Name:
Closer – Summarizes the Affirmative position and refers to new issues raised in the debate. Name:	Closer – Summarizes the Negative position and refers to new issues raised in the debate. Name:
**Moderator – Announces the debate and calls debate to order. Name:	**Timekeeper – Notifies speakers of time constraints. Name:

** These positions may be assigned by or held by the teacher.

Lincoln-Douglas Style Debate Procedures, cont.

Read through the following procedures so that you are very clear about what is expected of you.

Step by Step Procedures:

1. **MODERATOR:** announces the debate proposition. For example:
2. **MODERATOR:** introduces each speaker after the Timekeeper calls time.
3. **TIMEKEEPER:** keeps track of the time and lets participants know when they have one minute left to speak and informs them when their time is up.
4. **AFFIRMATIVE LEAD DEBATER:** allotted 5 minutes for the presentation of the Affirmative position.
5. **NEGATIVE QUESTION ASKER:** allotted 3 minutes to ask questions of Question Answerer from the Affirmative position team.
6. **NEGATIVE LEAD DEBATER:** allotted 5 minutes for the presentation of the Negative position argument.
7. **AFFIRMATIVE QUESTION ASKER:** allotted 3 minutes to ask questions of the Question Answerer from the Negative position team.
8. **AFFIRMATIVE REBUTTER:** allotted 3 minutes to respond to the arguments raised by the questions.
9. **NEGATIVE REBUTTER:** allotted 3 minutes to respond to the arguments raised by the questions.
10. **AFFIRMATIVE CLOSER:** allotted 5 minutes to summarize position, referring to new issues raised during the debate.
11. **NEGATIVE CLOSER:** allotted 5 minutes to summarize position, referring to new issues raised during the debate.
12. **OPTIONAL:** conduct a class survey, ballot, or vote to determine the winning position.

Lincoln-Douglas Style Debate Position Paper Assessment

Students should use this outline as a format for their position papers.

Members of the team:

Editor of Position Paper:

Moderator/Timekeeper:

Lead Debater:

Question Asker:

Question Answerer:

Rebutter:

Closer:

Others:

Position Paper:

Were the arguments supported and sourced?

Did the introduction present the argument well and did the conclusion wrap up the argument well?

Were the arguments logical and reasonable?

Debate

Overall presentation of argument:

Ability to respond to the challenges of the opposition:

Eye contact, voice volume, poise:

Logical and cogent responses:

Ability to work as a group:

