

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE OUTLINE

Resolved: The death penalty should be abolished in the United States.

(February, 2003, National Forensic League topic)

Step 1 - A coin toss determines which choice the coin toss winner will choose

- a. the Pro or Con side of the resolution, or
- b. the Order of speaking: 1st or last

Step 2 - Debate Format

Speaker Responsibilities

First Speaker - Team A = 4 Minutes
adoption

Prepare in advance the reasons for
(or rejection) of the topic. Be

accurate and

persuasive.

First Speaker - Team B = 4 Minutes
Conversational/extempore

style. 2nd speaker may respond to

most im-

portant arguments made by 1st

speaker

Crossfire = 3 Minutes

Used to clarify arguments, define

where

(first two speakers only)

clash exists. Probing questions to
weaknesses.

expose

Second Speaker - Team A = 4 Minutes
of the

Attack (refute) the case (arguments)

upon

opponents, and answer attacks made

Second Speaker - Team B = 4 Minutes

their own arguments by opponents.

Crossfire = 3 Minutes

Advance the debate by finding areas

of

(second two speakers only)

agreement and attacking arguments

with

which debaters don't agree.

Summary - First Speaker - Team A = 2 Minutes
most

Consolidate positions by defending

important

important points - attack most

Summary - First Speaker - Team B = 2 Minutes

points in opponents' case.

Grand Crossfire = 3 Minutes
(all four speakers involved)

Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A = 2 Min. Select only the most important issue
or
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B = 2 Min. issues and cover them thoroughly.

Prep Time (per team) = 2 Minutes

Step 3 - Judge completes ballot