

Bloomsburg University
Department of Psychology
Dr. Jeffrey D. Leitzel

Psychological Aspects of Social Issues
 Oral Debate Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate your performance in the oral debate. In general, I will provide a single grade to each team. The exception to this will be when there are wide discrepancies between team members in terms of their apparent level of preparation and mastery of the topic under debate. It is to your advantage to have rehearsed your main statements to be certain you are able to present smoothly and within the time parameters.

	Excellent (3)	Good (2)	Satisfactory (1)	Unacceptable (0)	% of total score
Understanding of Topic	Clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented information forcefully and convincingly.	Clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented information with ease.	Seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with ease.	Did not show an adequate understanding of the topic.	30
Presentation Style	Consistently used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	Usually used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	Sometimes used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	Presentation style that did not keep the attention of the audience.	10
Information	All information presented in the debate was clear, accurate and thorough. Extremely well-organized presentation of evidence. Opening and closing statements leave no significant unanswered issues.	Most information presented in the debate was clear, accurate and thorough. Well organized presentation of evidence. Opening statement successfully frames the issues, closing statement adequately summarizes.	Most information presented in the debate was clear and accurate, but was not very thorough. Organized and generally complete presentation of evidence. Opening statement lists arguments, closing statement doesn't reflect remarks during debate.	Information had several inaccuracies OR was usually not clear. Opening and closing statements do little more than state the position of the team.	20
Use of Facts/ Statistics	All major points were well supported with several relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	All major points were adequately supported with relevant facts, statistics and/or examples.	All major points were supported with facts, statistics and/or examples, but relevance of some was questionable.	All points were not supported.	15
Respect for Other Team	All statements, body language, and responses were respectful and were in appropriate language.	Statements and responses were respectful and used appropriate language, but once or twice body language was not.	Most statements and responses were respectful and in appropriate language, but there was at least one sarcastic remark.	Statements, responses and/or body language were consistently not respectful.	5
Rebuttal	All counter-arguments were accurate, relevant and strong.	Most counter-arguments were accurate, relevant, and strong.	Most counter-arguments were accurate and relevant, but several were weak.	Counter-arguments were not accurate and/or relevant	10
Time	Effective use of all of allocated time, did not go over or leave significant time unused.	Over or under on time in 1-2 sections.	Over or under on time in 3-5 sections.	Ineffective use of time. Did not utilize allocated time in majority of sections.	10