

Rule 7 Evaluations: Fall 2023

The Standing Rules of the Senate require that each debate is evaluated according to these standards, and that the evaluations are published for public review.

This document has been produced in compliance with Rule 7 of the Standing Rules of the Senate. Debates are numbered in chronological order, with S/n-20XX being the nth debate of the year 20XX.

For Spring 2023 Debates [Click Here](#).

Fall Semester Senate Debates:

[S/7-2023: Hookup Culture on Campus](#)

Questions about these evaluations should be directed to the President of the Senate at danielshaw@princeton.edu.

7. Rule 7 — Standards for Evaluating Senate Debates

- 7.1. EVALUATIVE STANDARDS FOR SENATE DEBATE TOPICS. — Senate Debate topics should be evaluated on the basis of the following three tests:
 - 7.1.1. Is the debate being held in good faith by both sides attending?
 - 7.1.2. Is the topic being discussed a topic of active contention, either in scholarly works or in the public sphere?
 - 7.1.3. Would debating this topic advance the campus conversation or build understanding on this topic?
- 7.2. NEGATING FACTORS FOR SENATE DEBATE TOPICS. — Senate Debate topics additionally may not fail the following test:
 - 7.2.1. Would discussing the topic violate the law, falsely defame a specific individual, constitute a genuine threat or harassment, unjustifiably invade substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or otherwise directly inhibit the functioning of the Society?
- 7.3. PUBLIC NOTICE OF DEBATE TOPIC EVALUATION. — The President of the Senate shall publish the rationale for the selection of a Senate Debate topic according to these rules on the website of the Senate or another publicly accessible forum prior to the debate being held.

S/7-2023: Hookup Culture on Campus

Positive Factors

7.1.1 Is the debate being held in good faith by both sides attending?

We have concluded that it would be.

7.1.2 Is the topic being discussed a topic of active contention, either in scholarly works or in the public sphere?

We have concluded that it is. Experts and other commentators from academic journals, magazines, newspapers, and websites that examine hookup culture from various angles, such as psychological, sociological, educational, and moral. The results also show that there are different opinions and arguments about hookup culture, such as whether it is beneficial or harmful for young adults, whether it reflects changing sexual norms or reinforces gender inequalities, whether it is a personal choice or a social pressure, and whether it should be celebrated or regretted.

7.1.3 Would debating this topic advance the campus conversation or build understanding on this topic?

We have concluded that, on balance, it would. Students in the freshman class may be experiencing collegiate hookup culture for the first time, and the topic is also one of active research. Hookup culture is prevalent and influential on college campuses, as many students participate in or are exposed to casual sexual encounters. The results also show that hookup culture has implications for various aspects of campus life, such as health, safety, relationships, identity, diversity, and education. Therefore, debating this topic may help students and others to reflect on their own experiences and values, to learn from different perspectives and research findings, and to develop critical thinking and communication skills.

Negating Factors

7.2.1 Would discussing the topic violate the law, falsely defame a specific individual, constitute a genuine threat or harassment, unjustifiably invade substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or otherwise directly inhibit the functioning of the Society?

We do not foresee this topic violating any of the negating standards.

Because this topic involves discussion of sexual behavior, we subjected this topic to more strict analysis under the standard.

We concluded that:

Hookup culture is a general and abstract topic, not a specific and personal one. The debate motion does not target or accuse any particular person or group of engaging in or promoting hookup culture. Furthermore, the motion does not reveal or expose any confidential or private information about anyone's sexual behavior or preferences. Senate debating rules further prohibit threatening or harassing members for their choices or opinions on hookup culture.

The topic is a legitimate and relevant one for academic and public discourse. It relates to various social, psychological, ethical, and educational issues that affect many college students and others. It has been studied and debated by various scholars, journalists, and commentators from different perspectives and disciplines. It has implications for the well-being, identity, diversity, and learning of the campus community.

This topic is protected under the Freedom of Expression clause of the Senate Constitution.