

## Guidelines on Facilitating Debates

### 1. Preparation Phase

- **Select a Clear Debate Topic:** Ensure the topic is well-defined and relevant to students' academic level and interests.
- **Divide Students into Teams:** Assign students into two opposing teams (e.g., Pro-Intervention vs. Free-Speech-Oriented).
- **Provide Background Material:** Share relevant articles, case studies, and ethical frameworks to support research.
- **Encourage Role Assignment:** Each team should have a lead speaker, supporting debaters, and a researcher.
- **Set Time Limits:** Clearly define time constraints for each section of the debate to ensure fairness and efficiency.

### 2. Structure of the Debate

- **Opening Statements (5 minutes per team):** Each side presents its initial argument and key points.
- **Rebuttal Round (5 minutes per team):** Teams respond to opposing arguments with counterpoints and evidence.
- **Cross-Examination (5 minutes per team):** Teams ask direct questions to challenge the opponent's position.
- **Closing Statements (3 minutes per team):** Final opportunity to reinforce key arguments and make a compelling case.

### 3. Facilitator's Role

- **Ensure a Respectful Environment:** Encourage civil discourse and prohibit personal attacks.
- **Moderate Timekeeping:** Use a timer to keep discussions on track.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking:** Ask probing questions to deepen analysis.
- **Address Misinformation:** Correct factual inaccuracies in a neutral manner.
- **Summarize Key Points:** Recap major arguments at the end of the debate to reinforce learning.

### 4. Assessment Criteria

- **Clarity and Coherence:** How well-structured and articulate are the arguments?
- **Use of Evidence:** Are claims supported by credible sources?

- **Critical Engagement:** How effectively does the team respond to opposing arguments?
- **Persuasiveness:** How compelling is the team's delivery and rhetoric?

## **5. Post-Debate Reflection**

- **Encourage Self-Reflection:** Ask students to write a short reflection on what they learned.
- **Group Discussion:** Facilitate an open discussion on key takeaways.
- **Link to Real-World Applications:** Discuss how the debate topic connects to current events and social issues.