

Goal: Debate whether or not “mandatory minimums” should be imposed for serious crimes.

Debate Vocabulary	
Resolution: A statement that one side defends and the other refutes <i>Our justice system should instate mandatory minimums for all serious crimes.</i>	
Affirmative: Those in support of the resolution	Negative: Those against the resolution
Constructive Speech: Contains statements of facts and arguments to support one’s position	
Rebuttal: Counterclaim made by opposition	
Cross Examination: Groups can ask questions or for clarification of points made by other group	

Debate Protocol:

1. Preparation time. Sides choose/assigned roles, spokespersons prepare opening statements, students draft possible questions, students compile textual evidence to support their opinions.
2. Spokespersons introduce their positions and give opening statements with evidence.
3. While each side is speaking, the other comes up with questions to cross-examine the other side. These questions should try to “poke holes” to weaken the opposition’s argument while strengthening your own.
4. Sides will take turns presenting evidence-supported points and asking cross-examination questions, at the discretion of the teacher. Allotted time and any additional etiquette rules for debate will be given prior to trial.
5. Once all questioning is complete, each group will have their spokesperson read their closing statement. This should attempt to cement your side as being correct.
6. A jury may be asked to fill out rubric slips.

Debate Format:

1. Affirmative constructive speech (general opening statements)
2. Negative constructive speech (general opening statements) & cross-examination if necessary
3. Affirmative rebuttal & cross-examination
4. Wash, rinse, repeat
5. Closing statements