



# Intro to Public Forum Debate

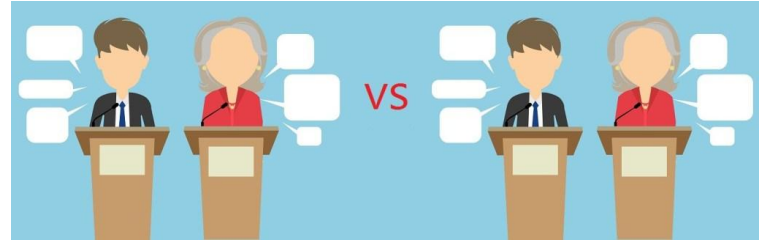


# What is Debate?

- Formal argumentation in which two opposing sides provide arguments and discuss a resolution.
- Judge evaluates the winner of each round.
- Participate in monthly tournaments hosted by the NYCUDL at middle schools across the city with a concluding state tournament.
- Perks of joining: become more knowledgeable about current events, bond and make new friends, and improve your public speaking skills!



# Public Forum - Overview



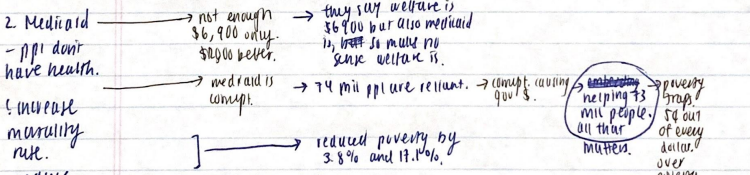
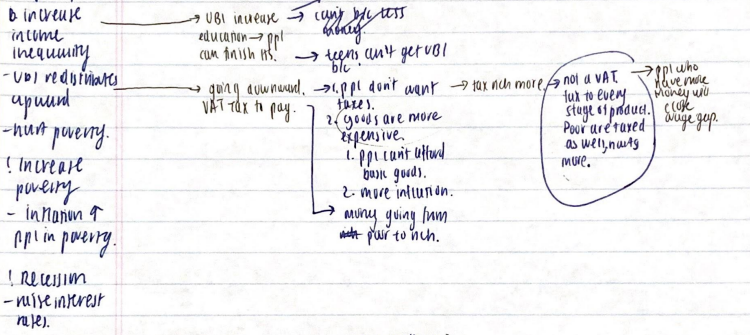
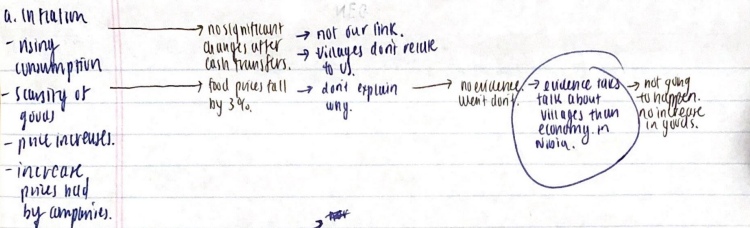
- More technical, evidence-based form of debate
- Topics are typically current events (ex. The USFG should end the arms sale to Saudi Arabia, the USFG should institute price controls on pharmaceuticals)
- Topics are also foreign policy (ex. the UN should grant India permanent membership on the SC)
- 2 v 2 rounds
- Each person makes two speeches
- Pre-prepared cases
- 2 minutes of prep time per team
- Pro is called Affirmative and Con is called Negation
- You should join public forum if you prefer evidence-based, planned argumentation, like writing an essay (take laptops)

# Flowing!

- The way debaters take notes
- Must flow every speech, but also remember to abbreviate.
- Use arrows to signal the “flow” of the round
- Assign each side a color to make the flow less confusing for yourself.
- Though there are many different ways to flow (ex. horizontally in one direction, on two pieces of paper)



1. US Econ



! increase mortality rate.

- reduce poverty.
- decrease mortality rate.
- hurt mils ppl on Medicaid.

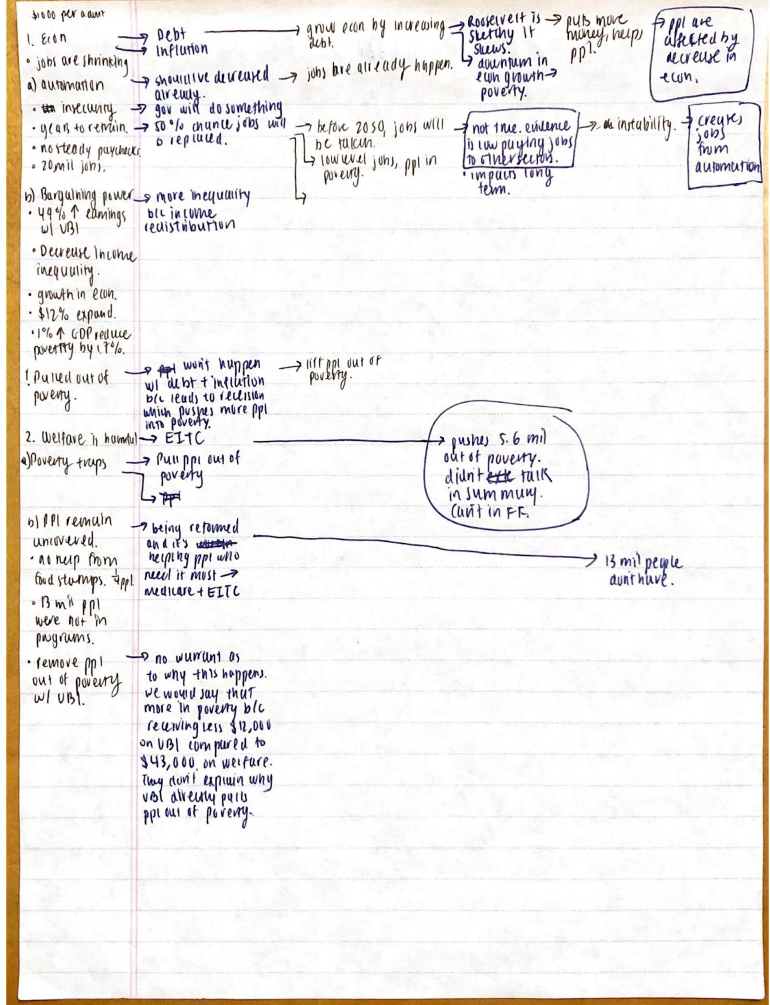
reduced poverty by 3.8% and 17.1%.

Magnitude - inflation ↑ 73 million ppl. by welfare. inflation will happen first before econ growth. automation in the long term.

Example flow from a Public Forum debate round. This is one way to flow.

\*\*Make sure you can do your flow, even if it is messy. Remember that they are for you to read

Black is AFF, Blue is NEG



# Public Forum Debate



# Public Forum Round Structure

## First Half of the Round

Speech 1: 4 minute **First Constructive** (First Speaker on AFF)

Speech 2: 4 minute **Second Constructive** (First Speaker on NEG)

3 minute **First Speaker Crossfire**

Speech 3: 4 minute **First Rebuttal** (Second Speaker on AFF)

- Refute the opponent's arguments

Speech 4: 4 minute **Second Rebuttal** (Second Speaker on NEG)

- Refute the opponent's arguments
- Frontline own arguments

3 minute **Second Speaker Crossfire**

## Second Half of the Round

Speech 5: 3 minute **First Summary** (First Speaker on AFF)

- Refute the opponent's arguments
- Frontline own arguments
- Weigh

Speech 6: 3 minute **Second Summary** (First Speaker on AFF)

- Similar to First Summary

3 minute **Grand Crossfire** (everyone)

Speech 7: 2 minute **First Final Focus** (Second Speaker on NEG)

- Similar to summary but more emphasis is put onto weighing

Speech 8: 2 minute **Second Final Focus** (Second Speaker on NEG)

- Similar to First Final Focus



# First Speaker Public Forum



- Two speeches: constructive and summary.
- First speech is constructive- read a 4 minute case (pre-written speech of all of your arguments)
- Participate in first crossfire.
- Second speech is summary- lay out a 3 minute speech summarizing the entire round.
  - Refute your opponent's arguments
  - Respond to your opponent's refutations on your argument (frontline)
  - Compare the impacts of both sides and explain to the judge why yours is more important (weigh)
  - Anything that is NOT brought up in this speech CANNOT be brought up in later speeches.
- Participate in grand crossfire.

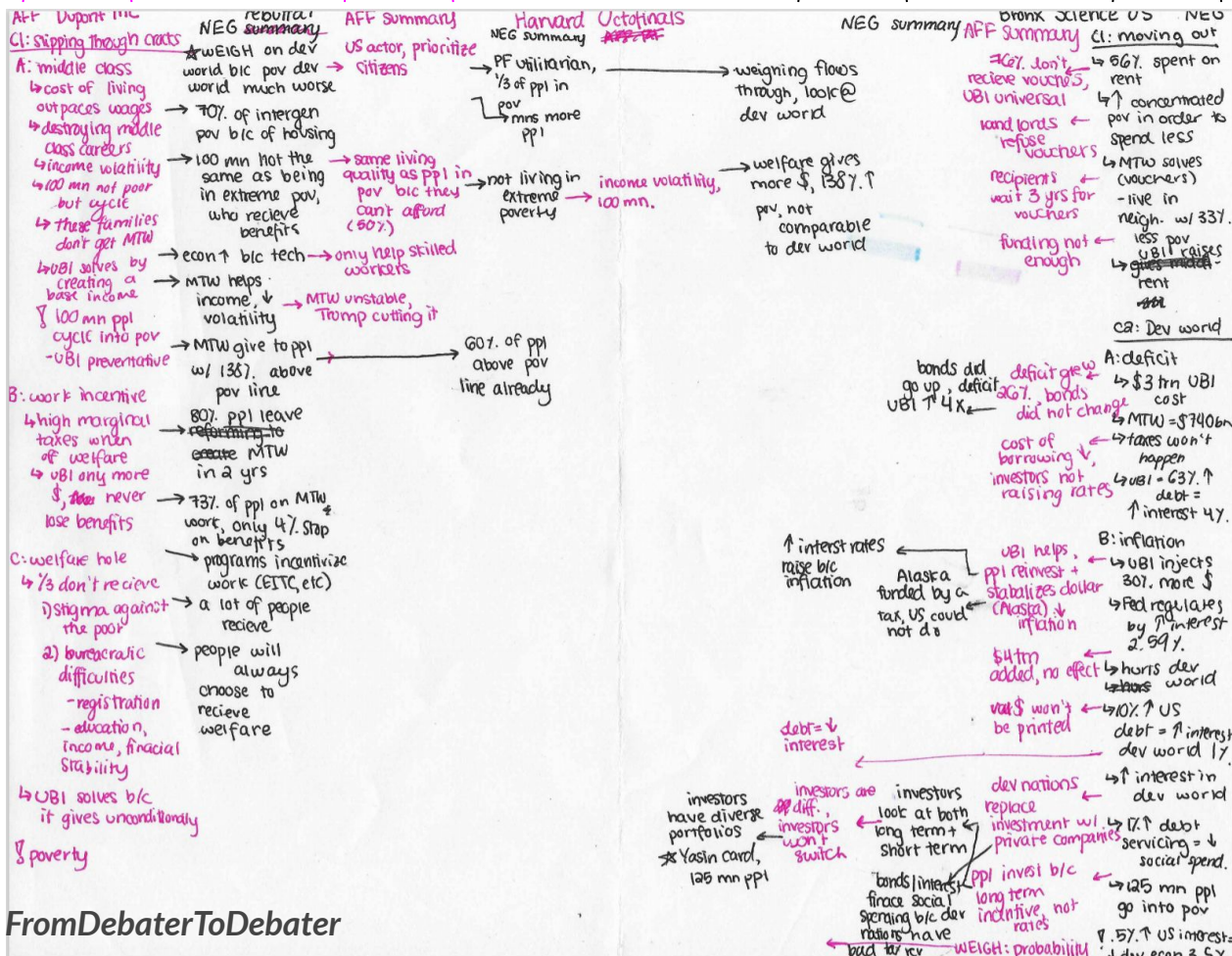


AFF Constructive

AFF Summary

NEG Summary

NEG Constructive

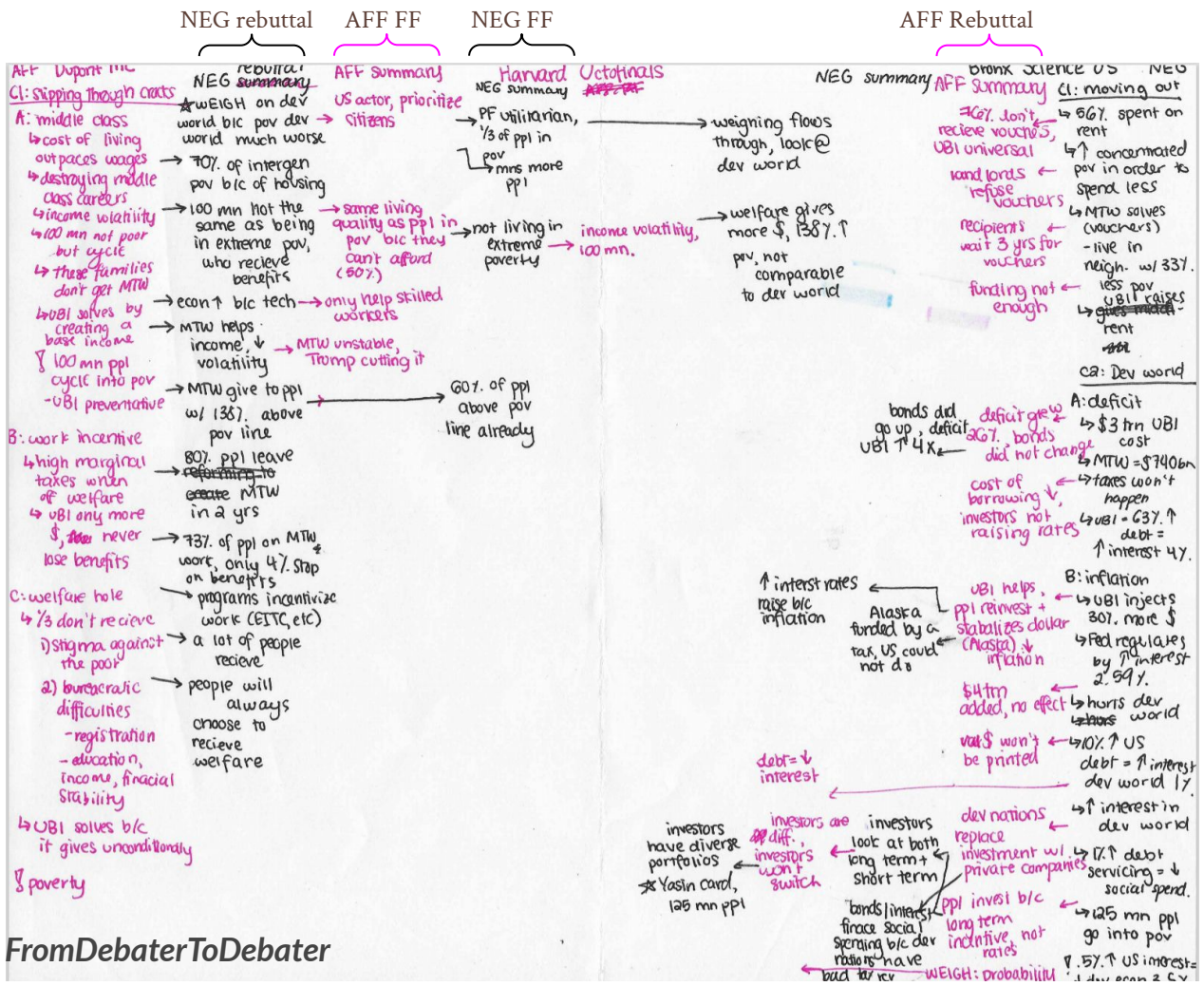


Pink represents AFF and black represents NEG.

# Second Speaker Public Forum



- Two speeches: rebuttal and final focus
- First speech is rebuttal- lay out a four minute rebuttal responding to your opponent's arguments and explaining why they are wrong
  - If second rebuttal, you must frontline as well
  - If time permits, start weighing
- Participate in second crossfire
- Participate in grand crossfire
- Second speech is final focus- lay out a 2 minute speech by boiling the entire round down and fully explaining to the judge why you won the debate.
  - Refute the arguments that your opponents brought up in summary.
  - Frontline responses that your opponents brought up in summary.
  - Weigh! You should a good amount of time weighing!
  - Ultimately tell the judge why you are winning and why they should vote for you.



Pink represents AFF and black represents NEG.

# Cutting Cards

- Unique to PF, judges and your opponents can ask to see your evidence during round or when deliberating, so be prepared to get quoted on everything!
- Card - the paragraph from your source which contains the direct quote you are paraphrasing, along with a link to the full article
- Cutting cards is the process of formatting the card to make it easy to read and share (examples can be see in our example resources)