

Debate Rules/Outlines- UConn ECE 1010 2018

For the final assessment, students will be required to synthesize information in preparation for verbal rhetorical debate and to judge the rhetorical effectiveness of the debating strategies of their classmates. The class will generate a debate topic based on an environmental issue of the day. This topic must take into account the science of the environment as well as the political positions and realities that surround any major environmental issue. (An example for 2018 might be a debate concerning whether or not oil drilling in national parks and wildlife refuges should be allowed. Issues that would have to be considered would include environmental impact, national security, diplomacy, eminent domain, special interests and the power of lobbyists, states' rights and energy policy.) In teams of three to four, students will write debate propositions with pro/con arguments for the topic and then the class will decide on three debatable statements to argue. Then each team will be responsible for researching and preparing arguments for and against the statement over the next two weeks. They will write and practice talking points and consider rhetorical strategies for delivering those points. On the debate days/ designated final exam days, teams will flip a coin to determine which teams will argue pro or con and then debate in the following format. Students waiting their turn for debate will judge the teams for rhetorical effectiveness (defined by student designed rubric) and pronounce the winners of each round. Debate will be single elimination, with each round judged by the students.

Debate Format – Cross –Examination Team Policy Debate

10 Minutes of Team prep total – Each team may request 5 minutes

First Affirmative Constructive	7 minutes
Negative Cross-Exam of First Affirmative Speaker	2 minutes
First Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Exam of First Negative Speaker	2 minutes
Second Affirmative Constructive	7 minutes
Negative Cross-Exam of Second Affirmative Speaker	2 minutes
Second Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Exam of Second Negative Speaker	2 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal	3 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Second Negative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

NOTE: cross exam questions must be asked by only one person, but any one on the opposing team may answer.

Total time – 58 minutes per debate max.