

Getting Started on Your Debate

What Do You Already Know?

Once you have your team, you will sit down and gather all of the information that you know (prior to researching).

What Do You Need To Know?

After you have figured out your prior knowledge on the topic, you should have many questions left to answer. What are they? Make a list of questions and specific research sub-topics.

Collecting Information

This is where you and your team will conduct your research while keeping the following in mind:

- Valid, reliable sources (no Wiki-anything)
- Multiple sources

Sort Your Information

Categorize your information into subtopics and get rid of any information you do not need. Remember, this is a debate – you need to know your topic well, and be able to discuss it without constantly referring to your notes. You must also be able to anticipate the opposition's arguments, as well as answer questions during the discussion period!

Formulate Your Arguments

Again, you must be able to anticipate any arguments the opposing side will say. However, before you do this, you must formulate your own strong arguments, reasons why the judges should side with your team.