

Class Debate Rubric (ages 14+)

Suggested criteria

Learning Outcome	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaching expectations	Below expectations
Organization of ideas	<p>Ideas are clear and logically organized, making an exceptionally coherent, focused argument. As a result, argument is very persuasive.</p> <p>Argument adheres to required length of time.</p>	<p>Ideas are organized, making a coherent, focused argument. As a result, argument is persuasive.</p> <p>Argument may go very slightly above or below required length of time.</p>	<p>Ideas may be somewhat unclear or illogically organized. As a result, argument may lack cohesion and/or focus.</p> <p>Argument may go significantly above or below required length of time.</p>	<p>Ideas are unclear and/or illogically organized, making any argument difficult or impossible to follow.</p>
Content and accuracy	<p>Argument is supported with exceptionally well chosen evidence and/or reasoning.</p> <p>Evidence/reasoning is completely accurate and/or logical.</p>	<p>Argument is supported with appropriate evidence and/or reasoning.</p> <p>Evidence/reasoning is accurate and/or logical.</p>	<p>There is an attempt to support argument with evidence and/or reasoning, but it may be lacking.</p> <p>Some evidence/reasoning may be notably inaccurate and/or illogical.</p>	<p>There is no evidence or reasoning to support argument.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Most evidence/reasoning is inaccurate and/or illogical.</p>
Delivery	<p>Posture is open and confident. Eye contact is consistent across the whole audience. Notes are referenced only occasionally and briefly.</p> <p>Words are clearly enunciated at a natural pace. Volume is appropriate and steady.</p> <p>There is a masterful use of formal spoken English throughout the presentation, except for effect (e.g. slang might be used for humor).</p>	<p>Posture is mostly open. There is frequent eye contact across most of the audience. Notes may be referenced often, but this does not significantly disrupt the flow of the presentation.</p> <p>Words are easily understood, although pace may be slightly faster or slower than natural. Volume is mostly appropriate, with only a few variations.</p> <p>Most of the presentation uses formal spoken English, but there may be noticeable lapses and/or errors.</p>	<p>Posture is somewhat closed. There is occasional eye contact, but it may be directed to only one part of the audience. There may be a heavy reliance on notes, disrupting the flow of the presentation.</p> <p>Some parts of the presentation may be difficult to follow because of issues with enunciation, pace, and/or volume.</p> <p>There may be obvious difficulties with formal English usage, such as frequent slang or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>There is little or no effort to engage the audience with body language or eye contact. Presenter may simply read notes aloud.</p> <p>Most or all of the presentation is difficult to follow because of issues with enunciation, pace, and/or volume.</p> <p>Conventions of formal English are mostly unobserved.</p>

Optional criterion

Learning Outcome	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaching expectations	Below expectations
Teamwork and preparation	<p>Team has clearly coordinated, so that teammates' arguments masterfully build on one another.</p>	<p>There is evidence of team coordination, so that teammates' arguments are not redundant.</p>	<p>There is little evidence of team coordination; there may be significant overlap in teammates' arguments.</p>	<p>There is no evidence of team coordination; arguments are highly redundant or contradict one another.</p>