(Note: Teams usually consist of 3 players per team (NOT MORE THAN 3 PLAYERS), however, teams may choose to use only 2 players per institution.) One team per institution will be allowed.

**Objective:** Students will engage in a debate focused on two opposing views. Engaging in this structured event requires each student to critically evaluate current evidence, examine personal convictions based on values and beliefs, statistical facts and synthesize relevant information to provide detailed information so that judges may make informed decisions about the most convincing team. A coin toss will reveal who the affirmative team is vs. the negative team.

**Format:**

1. Two teams will be assigned. One team will create an affirmative presentation while the other team will be responsible for conveying a negative or opposing presentation. Involvement by each student is required.

2. **Debate guidelines:**
   
   a. Affirmative Plan: 5 minutes. What will you be discussing and why?
   
   b. Negative Plan: 5 minutes. What you will be discussing and why?

   3 minute break to prepare for rebuttal.

   c. Negative Rebuttal: 5 minutes. This is a direct rebuttal to the Affirmative Plan. This team addresses issues identified in the Affirmative team’s introduction. Ask the tough questions, demand answers, do anything and everything you can to counter the argument of the negative.

   d. Affirmative Rebuttal/ with cross examination: 5 minutes. Direct rebuttal to the negative plan. This team addresses only those issues identified in the Negative’s team’s introduction. Ask the tough questions, demand answers, do anything and everything you can to counter the argument of the negative.

   3 minute break for preparation/adjustment to arguments.

   e. Affirmative Closing: 5 minutes. Provide answers for rebuttal and make final closing remarks.

   f. Negative Closing: 5 minutes. Provide answers for rebuttal and make final closing remarks.

4 Cross-examination will be allowed in the form of one question and a one-minute response from opposing teams after the second and third speakers from each team has presented.
General Tips, Rules and Regulations
1. The narrative or the closing is normally given by the most persuasive group member.
2. Do not engage group members from the opposite team directly. No pointing, shouting, etc.
3. Statistics and references are most convincing
4. Research comments and information that the opposition may present.