

# ***Debates***

## ***Benefits of Debates***

1. Debates can help you practice and demonstrate your critical thinking skills.
2. Debates can help you learn to discuss complicated topics calmly, clearly, and competently
3. Debates can help you cultivate your persuasion skills
4. Debates help deepen your understanding of topics when you "actively" listen to opposing views
5. Debates help sharpen communication skills – you can learn to say more with fewer words
6. Debates can be mind-opening – "actively" listening to opposing opinions can help you *think out of the box* – they can offer a broader range of alternatives, excite imagination, and ignite creativity
7. Debates help remind you that while business is about competition it is also about compromise and cooperation
8. Debate teams can offer a sense of comradeship, demonstrating the value of teamwork.
9. To those with a truly open-mind, debates can broaden and deepen reasoning and communicating skills. They can enhance the ability to think and communicate clearly and quickly.

### ***Debates are not...***

1. Debates are not wars
2. Debates are not arguments
3. Debates do not mean one team must win and one must lose (*both can be successful or both can be losers*)

**REMEMBER:**

You learn more from the person who disagrees with you than from the one who agrees.

***Debate – Rules & Requirements:***

- ➔ (1) Select a publicly traded company that you wish to defend at least two weeks before your debate
- ➔ (2) Immediately provide the name of the company you are defending to the team you are debating AND get the name of the company they are defending.
- ➔ (3) Once teams have been informed of company names those companies cannot be changed
- ➔ (4) You will compare and contrast your company with the other company and explain why your company is a better financial investment.

***Rules & Timing:***

- (1) Each Team will be allotted 5 minutes to introduce their company with no interruptions from the other Team.
- (2) Each Team will have 5 minutes to compare and contrast their company to the other. Emphasize why the strategy of your company is superior to the strategy of the other company. **FACTS TO SUPPORT EACH STATEMENT** should be provided. There are no interruptions during this period.
- (3) Each team will be allotted 3 minutes to rebut arguments, criticize the rival company, and/or promote the strategy and performance of their firm. There are to be no interruptions.
- (4) Both teams will have 2 minutes to “DISCUSS” vigorously for their team and/or against the other. Interruptions are fine at this point but blunt weapons are discouraged. **NO LOUD VOICES – PLEASE!**