

## Format for Parliamentary Debates

**Beginning of Debate:** A debate starts with an opening statement from a member from each side. During this time the person speaking cannot be interrupted or questioned by the other side. After both sides have made their opening statements the speaker will open the floor for debate. If you want to speak you should stand and this will let the speaker know that you want to speak. You may not speak until you have been recognized by the Speaker.

**Duties of Speaker/Chair:** It is the Speaker's job to call on people to speak. He or she should be sure to alternate sides when choosing people to speak. One side should not be called on twice in a row. If this occurs you should yell out, "Point of order." This will let the speaker know that a mistake has been made and needs to be rectified. Also if a situation arises where more than one person is standing waiting to speak, the Speaker should call on the person(s) who have not yet participated in the debate.


**Point of Information:** If have a question while someone is speaking you may stand and proclaim, "Point of information. Will the speaker yield for a question?" The speaker will then have the option of accepting your request to ask a question, rejecting your request, or ignore your request.

**Behavior:** You should address all of your colleagues respectfully. It is suggested that you refer to each other as "Honorable Senator" when addressing each other. No swearing or rowdy behavior will be tolerated. If this type of behavior occurs you will be kicked out of the debate and receive a zero for the assignment.

**End of Debate:** The debate will end with a closing statement from one senator from each side. This is a good time to briefly summarize your arguments while trying to be as persuasive as possible. After both closing statements, we will have a vote to determine if the measure passes.

**Debate Prep:** The teacher will instruct you to prepare either one page of notes or an opening statement for each debate. It is due at the start of the class/debate.

**For United States History** You should have a debate placard made out of cardboard or thick paper and be 12" by 16". Fold it in half and neatly place the following information on it..

State Flag 	SENATOR (your name) _____
	STATE NAME

**For World History/Modern European History:** You should have a debate placard make out of cardboard or thick paper and be 11" by 14". Fold it in half and neatly place the following information on it....Same as the above sample but use the title of Honourable or Right Honourable instead of Senator and choose a province within Britian for your Regional name. The Flag should also be from that region (e.g. Wales, Scotland, Wessex, Ireland etc.)