

## Debate Across the Curriculum

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## Benefits of DAC

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- Fundamentally connected to democratic practice
- Increases communication skills
- Teaches students to evaluate information rather than memorize information
- Promotes critical thinking
- Encourages student investment in the issues

## Basics of Debate

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Debates must have:

- A Resolution or Topic
  - Resolutions of Fact
  - Resolutions of Value
  - Resolutions of Policy
- Affirmative and Negative Speakers
- Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches

## Resolutions of Fact

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- Affirmative Speakers should...
  - Offer examples and empirical evidence which support the fact claim
- Negative Speakers should...
  - Offer examples and empirical evidence which support the fact claim
  - Attempt to refute the examples and evidence suggested by the affirmative

## Resolutions of Value

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- Affirmative Speakers should...
  - Establish criteria by which to measure the debate
  - Apply the criteria to the issues using logic, examples, etc.
- Negative Speakers should...
  - Accept the Affirmative criteria or offer their own
  - Use logic, counter examples, etc. to refute the Affirmative application

## Resolutions of Policy

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- Affirmative Speakers should...
  - Show harms of the current system
  - Offer a plan to fix the system
  - Explain how the plan will solve the harms

## Resolutions of Policy, continued

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- Negative Speakers should...
  - Challenge the significance or severity of the harms in the current system
  - Point out problems with the plan and the feasibility of the solution
  - Offer possible disadvantages to the plan