

Free Trade Debate

Topic: Be it resolved that Canada should enter into free trade agreements wherever possible.

Assignment: Each small group of students will be assigned to either the affirmative or negative side for the debate. Your group should work together to research arguments either for or against Canada being involved in free trade agreements. Decide on the top arguments for your side. Each group member is responsible for one argument.

Resources:

<http://www.enetlearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/free-trade-resource.pdf>

<https://www.thebalance.com/free-trade-agreement-pros-and-cons-3305845>

<https://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/arguments-for-and-against-free-trade/#.X7n1jBNKgk>

Rules for the debate

1. The first speaker for the affirmative side who is sitting next to the chairperson begins. Then, as indicated by the arrows in the diagram on the next page, the first speaker for the negative side responds. In this way, the speakers for both sides speak in turn. When the last speaker for the negative side has the last word.
2. Each speaker has a maximum time of one minute. The chairperson checks the time carefully. They give a sign when the speaker has 10 seconds to go, and after speaking time is over, the speaker may finish their sentence and must then stop.
3. Interrupting a speaker is forbidden.
4. The audience must not participate in the debate.
5. After the debate, the audience has five minutes to share their impressions and opinions. Then they vote by a show of hands.
6. In the vote, yes and no votes are counted. The majority wins the vote.

Tips for debating speakers

1. With the exception of the first speaker for the affirmative side, spend approximately the first half of your statement to rebut an argument of the other side and then present a new point.
2. (For the first speakers.) State your motion – say what decision you want to see.
3. When you prepare for the debate, first brainstorm ideas. Then decide in which order you want to present your points, and assign them to a speaker. Begin and finish with a particularly strong and impressive point.
4. The last speakers should sum up their side's argument, highlighting three or four points.
5. Don't read your statement. Make eye contact with your opponents and with the audience.
6. Treat your opponents with respect. Rebut their arguments but don't insult them.