



BIOMEDICAL DEBATE

- Purpose:** To provide Health Science students with an opportunity to develop and demonstrate skills in debating a biomedical issue.
- Description of Event:** This event will consist of a preliminary round and debate round. The debate round follows a modified Lincoln-Douglas debate format. The topic for both rounds will be announced annually. Teams of 3-4 members will participate in a preliminary round. The highest scoring teams will qualify for the debate round. Debate round pairings and position (either the affirmative or negative) are based on random selection.
- Dress Code:** Competitors shall wear the HOSA uniform or proper business attire. Bonus points will be awarded for proper dress in both the preliminary and debate rounds. All team members must be properly dressed to receive bonus points.
- Rules and Procedures**
1. Competitors in this event must be active members of HOSA in good standing in the category in which they are registered to compete (Secondary or Postsecondary/Collegiate).
 2. The annual debate topic will be selected each summer and will be announced in HOSA publications.
 3. Each team will consist of 3-4 team members.
 4. During the preliminary round, at least three (3) team members must respond to a position statement/questions on an issue(s) related to the debate topic. Each team will be given a total of five (5) minutes to prepare and present on the question. The position statement is a secret topic. Professional ethics demand that competitors DO NOT discuss or reveal the secret topic for ANY event until after the event has concluded. Competitors who violate this ethical standard will be disqualified.
 5. The preliminary round score will be used to qualify a maximum of 20-24 secondary teams and 10-12 postsecondary/collegiate teams for the debate round. The teams will be judged using the preliminary round rating sheet.
 6. Following the preliminary round, debate pairings will be posted at a designated time and place. One alternate team will be selected, and will be asked to report to the event manager at the beginning of the debate round for instructions.
 7. Debate teams will draw for the affirmative or negative immediately before entering the competition room. Teams would have two (2) minutes to prepare outside the competition room. At least three (3) team members must speak in the debate.
 8. Teams will be permitted to bring prepared materials (Containers/folders with notes, printed pages, books and bound materials) to the preliminary round and presentation areas. Props will NOT be allowed. 8½ x 11" paper and note cards will be provided for use by the teams.

9. The following specific pattern will be followed during the debate:
- **Affirmative Constructive Speech** (4 minutes). The speaker for the affirmative presents her or his arguments.
 - **Negative Cross-Examination** (2 minutes). The speaker for the negative questions the affirmative speaker on the points she or he made in her or his constructive speech.
 - **Negative Constructive Speech** (4 minutes). The speaker for the negative presents his or her arguments.
 - **Affirmative Cross-Examination** (2 minutes). The speaker for the affirmative questions the negative speaker on the points she or he made in her or his constructive speech.
 - **Affirmative Rebuttal** (3 minutes). The affirmative speaker rebuts the points made by the negative speaker.
 - **Negative Rebuttal** (4 minutes). The negative speaker rebuts the points made by the affirmative speaker.
 - **Final Affirmative Rebuttal** (1 minute). The affirmative speaker again rebuts.
- * The full time noted above will be provided, even if a team chooses not to use any or all of the time allowed.
10. For the debate presentation, there will be two tables with chairs in the front of the room, one assigned to the affirmative and one to the negative. A speaker's podium will be positioned between the two tables and will face the judges.
11. During the constructive speeches and rebuttals, the speaker will stand at the podium. During the cross-examination, the team member(s) asking the questions will stand at their table and the speaker whose constructive speech is being cross-examined will remain at the podium. Interruption of the speaker by the questioner during the cross-examination is allowed.
12. A timekeeper will keep time for each part of the debate and will call time at the end of the maximum amount of time allowed. Speakers must immediately stop speaking when time is called.
13. One (1) minute will be allowed between each part of the debate to allow teams to discuss strategy and for judges to rate the prior performance. After the one (1) minute, the Section Leader will be responsible for calling the next speaker to the podium and announcing each part of the debate to the judges as an introduction. The timekeeper will begin time when the speaker is at the podium and the speaker has been announced.
14. Teams are permitted to discuss and write notes during all parts of the debate, however, table decorum will be evaluated on the rating sheet with the intent that teams will conduct themselves in a professional manner without distracting the other team.
15. In addition to rating each part of the debate, each judge will determine his or her "winner" of the debate based on the total presentations, evidence and persuasiveness, and will award that team 10 points on the rating sheet.
16. Should a tie occur in the ranking of teams, the section on the rating sheet with the highest possible point value will be used as the tie breaker; others as necessary in descending order of total point value.

17. In the event there are fewer than 10 teams in a division, the following options may be implemented:
 - A. The two lowest scoring teams from the preliminary round will debate each other. The higher scoring team will then be in the pool of teams to be randomly paired and judged.
 - B. If there are only 3 teams, each team will debate the other two for a total of 3 debates. The scores from the two debates will be combined to determine final placing.
 - C. Other options may be considered to allow a fair event experience.
18. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the "**General Rules and Regulations of the National HOSA Competitive Events Program.**"

Required Personnel

1. One Event Manager per event
2. One Section Leader per section
3. One-three judges per section
4. One-two Courtesy Corps per section
5. One timekeeper per section
6. Preparation room attendant(s)

Facilities, Equipment and Materials (Per Section)

1. Preliminary round: One presentation room per section with one table and chairs, one podium, and one judges' table.
2. Debate round: One presentation room per section with two tables for teams, one podium and one judges' table.
3. Holding rooms or areas for competitors
4. 8½ x 11" paper and note cards for use by teams
5. Calculators, note pads, pencils for judges
6. Certificates, event evaluations and pencils (per competitor)
7. Stopwatch(s)
8. Cards for drawing affirmative or negative (one per section)
9. Affirmative/Negative signs for team tables per section
10. One affirmative and one negative rating sheet per judge per team

BIOMEDICAL DEBATE PRELIMINARY ROUND

Section: _____

Level: _____ SS _____ PS/C

Team #: _____

Judge's Signature: _____

Items Evaluated	Points Possible					Points Given	Comments
	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor		
1. Knowledge of topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of Issue/Topic • Flow & logic of content • Quality of evidence 	10	8	6	4	2		
2. Presentation Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice, grammar, articulation • Teamwork (3 members must respond) 	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Ability to Take a Position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuasiveness • Relevance of arguments 	10	8	6	4	2		
TOTAL POINTS --- Possible/Awarded	55	44	33	22	11		

BIOMEDICAL DEBATE AFFIRMATIVE RATING SHEET

Section: _____
Team #: _____

Division _____ SS _____ PS _____
Judge's Signature: _____

	Superior	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Points Given
1. Affirmative Constructive Speech	10	8	6	4	2	
• Arguments & Evidence (Persuasiveness)	10	8	6	4	2	
• Flow & logic of speech	5	4	3	2	1	
• Relevance of arguments	5	4	3	2	1	
• Presentation						
2. Response to Negative Cross-Exam	15	12	9	6	3	
• Quality of responses						
3. <i>Negative Constructive Speech</i>						----
4. Affirmative Cross-Examination	5	4	3	2	1	
• Quality of questions						
5. Affirmative Rebuttal	5	4	3	2	1	
• Clarification of argument	10	8	6	4	2	
• Evidence and effectiveness of rebuttal	5	4	3	2	1	
• Relevance of rebuttal	5	4	3	2	1	
• Presentation						
6. <i>Negative Rebuttal</i>						-----
7. Final Affirmation Rebuttal	10	8	6	4	2	
• Presentation and content						
8. Decorum, professional behavior toward other team, and at least 3 members spoke in debate	5	4	3	2	1	
9. Debate winner	10					
TOTAL POINTS --- Possible/Awarded	100					

BIOMEDICAL DEBATE NEGATIVE RATING SHEET

Section _____
Team # _____

Division _____ SS _____ PS _____
Judge's Signature _____

	Superior	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Points Given
1. <i>Affirmative Constructive Speech</i>						---
2. Negative Cross-Examination • Quality of questions	5	4	3	2	1	
3. Negative Constructive Speech • Arguments & Evidence (Persuasiveness) • Flow & logic of speech • Relevance of arguments • Presentation	10 10 5 5	8 8 4 4	6 6 3 3	4 4 2 2	2 2 1 1	
4. Affirmative Cross-Examination • Quality of responses	15	12	9	6	3	
5. <i>Affirmative Rebuttal</i>						---
6. Negative Rebuttal • Clarification of argument • Evidence and effectiveness • Relevance of rebuttal • Presentation	5 15 5 10	4 12 4 8	3 9 3 6	2 6 2 4	1 3 1 2	
7. <i>Final Affirmative Rebuttal</i>						
8. Decorum, professional behavior toward other team, and at least 3 members spoke in debate	5	4	3	2	1	
9. Debate winner	10					
TOTAL POINTS --- Possible/Awarded	100					

BIOMEDICAL DEBATE SCRIPT

Section Leader addresses judges:

**AFFIRMATIVE
CONSTRUCTIVE** "This debate is between team _____ in the Affirmative and team _____ in the Negative. Team _____ will begin with the Affirmative Constructive Speech. You will have four minutes."

[At the end of four minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**NEGATIVE
CROSS-EXAM** "Team _____ will begin the Negative Cross-Examination. You will have 2 minutes."

[At the end of two minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**NEGATIVE
CONSTRUCTIVE** "Team _____ will begin the Negative Constructive Speech. You will have 4 minutes."

[At the end of four minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**AFFIRMATIVE
CROSS-EXAM** "Team _____ will begin the Affirmative Cross-Examination. You will have 2 minutes."

[At the end of two minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**AFFIRMATIVE
REBUTTAL** "Team _____ will begin the Affirmative Rebuttal. You will have 3 minutes."

[At the end of 3 minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**NEGATIVE
REBUTTAL** "Team _____ will begin the Negative Rebuttal. You will have 4 minutes."

[At the end of 4 minutes time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Allow one minute for strategy discussion. At the end of one minute, announce.....]

**FINAL
AFFIRMATIVE
REBUTTAL** "Team _____ will begin the Final Affirmative Rebuttal. You will have 1 minute."

[At the end of 1 minute time, stand and call **TIME**. All speaking must end. Thank both teams and escort them out of the room.]