Debater Guidelines- 2018 ISDC Universalization Debate

Definition: A debate is a discussion or structured contest about an idea, issue or a resolution. A formal debate involves two sides: one argument supporting (upholding or the affirmative side) a resolution and one argument opposing it (negating or rejecting side). Each argument is supported with evidence (statistics, examples, facts, testimony). The argument of either side is called a claim. Debaters respond to the arguments made by the opposing teams and the term for this is ‘clash’ as debaters rebut Points of Information (POI) of the opposing team.

Approach: **Rogerian argument** (or **Rogerian rhetoric**) is a conflict-solving technique based on seeking common ground instead of polarizing debate. According to English professor James Baumlin, The Rogerian strategy, in which participants in a discussion collaborate to find areas of shared experience, thus allows speaker and audience to open up their worlds to each other, and in this attempt at mutual understanding, there is the *possibility*, at least, of persuasion. For in this state of sympathetic understanding, we recognize both the *multiplicity* of world-views and our *freedom* to choose among them—either to retain our old or take a new.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rogerian_argument#cite_note-4) (Excerpt form Wikipedia)

A category that each debater will be judged is: “Team member showed an outstanding degree of empathy, respect, and integration of opponent’s key concerns or goals.”

Debater Profile/Etiquette:

1. Prepare your arguments
2. Work with your teammates to determine the sequence of each person and what the person will say
3. Speak confidently, using eye contact, good voice tone and volume, gestures, enthusiasm, and persuasion
4. Speak clearly but not too fast to get your information out to the judges and the audience as they also will be evaluating the team’s presentation of their resolution
5. You may not speak to your team partners directly (except when you are preparing rebuttals), but you may pass notes freely
6. Always address the moderator, judges and opponents at the beginning of your speech
7. Dress appropriately
8. Be respectful to the speaker by not interrupting
9. Be professional after your delivery
10. At the end of the debate, cross the floor and shake hands.

