

Moderator Questioning Guide

- Unique to the Ronald Reagan Debate format, judges, also known as moderators, ask the debaters questions just like a real presidential debate!
- The purpose of this period is an opportunity for debaters to show their breadth/ depth of knowledge or clarify their points.
- There are no “gotcha questions,” questions that argue against, or criticize the debater.
- There should not be any yes or no questions.
- Judges should ask each debater an equal number of questions.
- Engaging questions encourage the debater to think critically about what they are arguing and apply their knowledge.
- Judges can ask the same question to each debater.

Example Questions



Could you further elaborate your point about _____?



How would this impact you and me personally?



How would this impact our community?



What do you believe is your opponent's strongest point?



Why should I care about this issue?