





# GREAT COMMUNICATOR

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## DEBATE SERIES

### Making a Decision in the Great Communicator Debate

The Great Communicator Debate is an individual event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge,” i.e. a member of the American Jury.

A Great Communicator Debate should:

- Display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis
- Utilize evidence but not be driven by it
- Present a clash of ideas
- Counter the arguments of the opponents (rebuttal)
- Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence and civility

In making a decision, a judge should be as objective as possible. Judges should adjudicate the round as it is debated, not as they personally feel. Judges should not disclose their preferences.

#### 1. Procedure and Order/Time Limits of Speeches:

- a. The Affirmative will always speak first. During the Crossfire, the Affirmative will ask the first question.
- b. Each side receives 2 minutes of prep time which can be used at any point during the debate. When one side asks to use their prep time, the opposing side may also use the time.

<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	5 minutes	Opening Statement
<b>NEGATIVE</b>	5 minutes	Opening Statement
<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	4 minutes	Rebuttal
<b>NEGATIVE</b>	4 minutes	Rebuttal
<b>CROSSFIRE</b>	3 minutes	
<b>MODERATOR</b>	3 minutes	Pose questions to each side*
<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	3 minutes	Closing
<b>NEGATIVE</b>	3 minutes	Closing
<b>TOTAL DEBATE TIME</b>	30 minutes	
<b>PREP TIME</b>	2 minutes	Each debater can choose to use at any point during debate

*\*Like a presidential debate, the moderator will at this point have an opportunity to pose a question to each debater. In general, this should be to clarify or help the competitor expand on a point from earlier.*

2. **Timing:** Timekeepers are optional but not required. Debaters may time for themselves and for their opponent.
3. **Closing:** No new arguments may be introduced in the Closing; however, debaters may include new evidence to support prior arguments.