

**TRio student leadership conference**

l.i.t debate information packet

## **Table of Contents**

## Welcome…………………………………………………………… Page 2

## Duties and Roles………………………………………………... Page 3

## Debate Topics……………………………………………………. Page 4

## Rules and Guidelines………………………………………… Page 5-6

## Judging Criteria………………………………………………… Page 7

## Debate Attire…………………………………………………… Page 8

**Welcome**

Greetings,

We would like to thank you for participating in the L.I.T. Debate for the 2019 Florida TRIO: Student Leadership Conference. The conference is an important initiative to better prepare TRIO student participants as effective leaders and thereafter. Your participation in the debate will help you to develop essential critical thinking skills, confidence, poise and self-esteem. You will be able to find more tangible ways to structure and organize your thoughts. When you compete with your team, you should take pride in not only the information you are presenting but in each other as well. Your individual goals are significant and important to your coaches who are helping you prepare for the main event.

This information packet has been assembled to better prepare you for the L.I.T. Debate.

We are looking forward to the display of talents that you all bring to the conference!

Good luck!

**Duties and Roles**

**Chairperson:**

The chairperson of the debate has the following duties:

* Introduce the student debaters and judges
* Introduce the debate topic
* Act as a back-up moderator

**Moderator:**

The moderator of the debate has the following duties:

* To see that the debate is orderly and follows the rules of the parliamentary procedures
* To rule on points of clarification about the issues, questions and answers made during the debate

**Timer:**

The timer of the debate has the following duties:

* To time the speakers and debaters accurately
* To give the speakers a one-minute warning before his/her time is up
* To ensure that debaters do not exceed the time allotted

**Judges:**

The judges of the debate have the following duties:

* Provide constructive feedback
* Focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented
* Score and select a winner for the debate

**2019 LIT Debate Topics**

Each team will be given the debate topics approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the leadership conference. Teams will be expected to have researched and prepared arguments for the affirmative and negative side. Two of the topics will be chosen. Teams will not know which debate topic they will be presenting until the day of the conference. The topics of the debate will be presented 10-15 minutes before the start. Each team will be allowed one sheet of paper or notecard for notes.

**Topics**

1. Do you think race, ethnicity or family background (e.g. income, first generation, etc.) should be factors that colleges consider when making admissions decisions?
2. Cell phones and smart phones have propagated more evil than good. Is it true?
3. Donald Trump is arguing that a wall is needed to separate the U.S. and Mexico. Do you think the wall is a necessary evil?

**Helpful Links**

Below are some links to help with your research. However, each team is encouraged to further research each topic.

<https://www.usatoday.com/border-wall/>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/01/10/683861960/border-patrol-professionals-weigh-in-on-what-s-needede-wall-or-fence>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-45867300>

<https://hechingerreport.org/facts-about-race-and-college-admission/>

<https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/resources/605_BIG_DEBATE.pdf>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180221152409.htm>

**Rules and Guidelines**

**Guides for Constructive Speech**

Poise, gestures, audience eye contact and voice projection are highly recommended.

**Instructions:**

1. Each team will consist of four members
2. Each team will discuss two topics. One team has the affirmative role (defends the “pros”) and the other team has the negative role (defends the “cons”).
3. All teams will have at least two weeks to prepare for the topic(s) they will discuss.
4. The two teams will discuss which role (affirmative or negative) each of them will have.
5. Before the start of the debate, both teams will have **10 minutes** to get ready for the debate. Each team may write some notes and questions on a sheet of paper or index card provided.
6. During each debate, the team will choose one speaker who will present his/her ideas and opinions of the topic. The speaker should change for each debate.
7. The first speaker of the “affirmative” team will start the debate. **The speaker will give their speech for 5 minutes in support of the resolution.**
8. The first speaker of the “negative” team will then present his/her ideas and opinions.  **The speaker will give their speech for 5 minutes opposing the resolution.**
9. The second speaker of the “affirmative” team will present further arguments in support of the resolution, identify further areas of conflict and answer questions that may have been raised by the previous opposition speaker. **The speaker will be given 5 minutes.**
10. The second speaker of the “negative” team will present further arguments in support of the resolution, identify further areas of conflict and answer questions that may have been raised by the previous affirmative speaker. **The speaker will be given 5 minutes.**
11. Teams will have a **5-minute recess** to prepare rebuttals and closing remarks.
12. “Negative” team will give their rebuttal. Team will defend the “negative” argument and attempt to defeat the “affirmative” arguments without adding new information. **The speaker will be given 3 minutes.**
13. “Affirmative” team will give their rebuttal. Team will defend the “affirmative” argument and attempt to defeat the “negative” arguments without adding new information. **The speaker will be given 3 minutes.**
14. Judges will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Each Judge will have the opportunity to ask one question per team. **About 5 min.**
15. Each team will be given the opportunity for closing remarks. The “negative” team will give their remarks first and the “affirmative” team will give their remarks last. **Each speaker will be given 2 minutes.**
16. Judges will then deliberate, and the winners will be announced.
17. While judges are deliberating the chairperson/and or moderator will take a “People’s Choice” vote from the audience just for fun.

**Rules:**

1. Questions should primarily focus on arguments developed in the speech of the opponent.
2. Everyone should be treated with respect and courtesy
3. Questions should be brief and easily understandable
4. No one should be cut off from asking a question
5. Opponents may refuse to answer ambiguous, irrelevant or loaded questions by asking the questioner to rephrase their question.
6. Rebuttals should point out clear fallacies committed by the opponent

**Judging Criteria**

The judges based on their discretion, will have the authority to determine who will win the debate and who the Best Speaker and Debater was. The winning team shall be determined by the majority decision of the judges.

**Point System:**

Each team will receive points for the following:

1. Relevance- staying on topic and using persuasive arguments
2. Promptness- quick responses to all questions
3. Engagement- all members of the team is participating in the debate
4. Pronunciation
5. Vocabulary- richness and width of words used
6. Fluency- speaking without any pauses or ums and likes
7. Strength of cross-examination and rebuttal

**Grounds for Disqualifications:**

1. Not speaking to the topic
2. Interrupting the debate by not asking or answering questions
3. Breaking ethical code (using offensive language)

**Debate Attire**

**What Not to Wear:**

* Casual/night out attire: When choosing your outfit, stray away from denim, spaghetti strap shirts, T-shirts with an image of a shirt and tie
* Inappropriate footwear: No tennis shoes, flip flops, no sandals
* Black Tie: This is for a more formal setting
* Flashy jewelry (ladies be mindful bracelets and earrings that make noise when you move), furry shoes, sunglasses

**What To Wear:**

* Business Professional: Slacks and/or skirt with a matching blazer jacker. Stay in the grey, black or navy color realm
* Business Casual: If you do not have a suit, that is perfectly fine. Guys can wear solid colored slacks/khaki, shirt with a tie. Ladies can wear button down shirts with nice slacks or skirt, sweaters, cardigans. Do your best to look professional
* Dress shoes