

September Package: Domestic Policy and Government

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October: Foreign Policy and International Affairs

November: Science and Environment

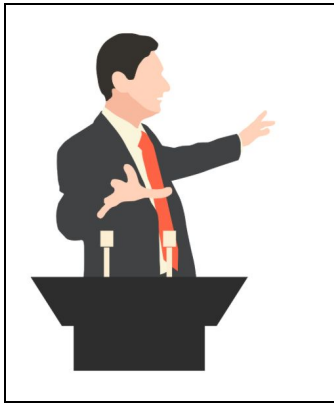
January: Ethics and Philosophy

February: Fiscal Policy and Economics

March: Health and Medicine

April: Media and Technology

May: Culture and Society



Novice: THBT the elected representative system is effective.

Game: I could NOT disagree more

Debate Strategy: Intro to Debate

Topic Theory: Government Function and Structure

Topic Contextualization: Types of Government and Advantages

Resolution and Directions

Game: Rapid Fire Speech

GAME: I COULD NOT DISAGREE MORE



This game will aim to help you get used to on-the-spot thinking and the logic required for counterpoint creation within a round. The basic premise is simple, you disagree with statements made by other students in the group. Arrange the students into a circle and introduce an initial topic. This topic can be thought up by either the instructor or any student. The person who that introduces the topic will also introduce themselves to the group.

For example, “My name is Michael and I think candy is great to eat.” The next student will introduce themselves, but also rebut the statement made by the speaker before them. They will then proceed to introduce a new statement. For example, “ My name is Sunand and I could NOT disagree more! Candy is terrible to eat because it fills your mouth with cavities. Instead, I think math class is awesome!” The next student would continue on, “My name is Candace and I could NOT disagree more! Math class is no fun because all you do is use equations over and over again ...” and so on until the person who initially introduced the topic is able to make a rebuttal with “I could NOT disagree more”.

Make sure the instructors, while participating, are paying attention to the student’s responses and point of well-thought out, logical arguments as opposed to some arguments which are more far-fetched. In addition, a specific time span should be given for the next student to think of a response, depending on the speaking skills of those in the class, the instructors can adjust time given to think of a rebuttal accordingly.

DEBATE STRATEGY: INTRO TO DEBATE

The most important thing to realize about debate is the fact that is just structured argument between two conflicting views. However, this structure is incredibly to debate and must be known and well understood in order for a debater to be successful. In this section, we will look at the basic rules everyone needs to know for the Canadian National Debating Style, which is the style used across the whole of Canada. As with most arguments, there are two sides. In debate, these are known as the proposition and opposition teams, the proposition supports the given resolution while the opposition argues against it. The resolution is the topic around which the debate is centered.

Let's start by talking about the teams and roles within these teams. Each team consists of two debaters, one is the 'first speaker' and the other is predictably the 'second speaker'. It must be noted that being first or second speaker has nothing to do with the level at which a debater is able to speak, the first speaker is not always the "best" debater in the team, instead it comes down to the roles which each speaker plays. The first speaker is more heavily responsible for introducing the debate as well establishing the main idea and argumentation for the side. They will also be responsible for the rebuttal speech as the end of the rounds, which are essentially summary speeches. These will be gone over later in the package. The second speaker will be responsible for the majority of clash against the other team's points while supplementing the argumentation introduced in the first speech. With that said, it really comes down to an individual's strengths and personal preference in determining what role they should adopt. It is not uncommon to have a people new to debate try both roles to better determine which one they feel more comfortable in.

Having discussed the general responsibilities of either role, we can now go more in-depth into the speaking order and the actual speeches which are typically delivered within a round. The speaking order within the round is pretty simple, it begins with the first speaker for the proposition side. As mentioned before, this first speech will establish the basis on which the rest of the debate will occur. This includes defining any terms in the resolution to clarify the grounds of debate and making clear what burdens each team carries. In addition to this, the first proposition speaker will also introduce side proposition's main ideas (these are called pillars and will be addressed during the argument construction segment) and talk more in depth about some of those ideas. After they has spoken, the first speaker for the opposition will be called to give their speech. This speech will aim to accomplish similar goals to the first proposition speaker in establishing side opposition's main pillars and elaborating on some of these pillars. However, instead of setting up terms and parameters for the debate, side opposition will spend some time in clashing the arguments of proposition instead.

Once the first opposition speaker is done, the second proposition speaker will speak. This speaker will cover the remaining content left for side proposition, while also clashing with the arguments brought forth by the first opposition. In this proposition speech, there is typically more emphasis on clashing the opponent instead of adding new pillars to side proposition's argument. However, there are cases in which people choose to focus on additional content more, depending on how the round has progressed and what kind of preparation the team did for the debate. After second proposition, the second opposition speaker will present their speech. This speech will play a role very similar to the second proposition speech in that it typically focuses on clash with proposition's points as opposed

to a heavier emphasis on actual content. These are the four main speeches within any round, the time limit placed on each will be the same for all four. The next two speeches are called the rebuttal speeches, these speeches have a time limit half as long as the main speeches.

The opposition gives their rebuttal first, followed by the proposition. These speeches are given by the first speaker on either team and act as a ‘biased summary’ of the round. Essentially, these speeches should look to summarize what has happened within the entire round on both sides, while explaining why your team has done a more effective job at asserting their position throughout the round on all fronts.

1st Speech: Proposition First Speaker - Set-up debate, introduce proposition pillars and expand on some of them
2nd Speech: Opposition First Speaker - Clash proposition points, introduce opposition pillars and expand on some of them
3rd Speech: Proposition Second Speaker - Clash opposition points, supplement proposition pillars
4th Speech: Opposition Second Speaker - Clash proposition points, supplement opposition pillars
5th Speech: Opposition First Speaker - Rebuttal, biased summary
6th Speech: Proposition First Speaker - Rebuttal biased summary

The final major portion of debate to be covered is the point of information, or POI. POIs allow a team to pose a challenge to a speaker from the opposite team while they are speaking. A speaker wishing to give a POI stands up and waits for acknowledgement from the current speaker. The current speaker has three options: accept the POI, turn the POI down, or ask for a moment before accepting the POI. Depending on the situation and part of speech being presented, any of the three options can be viable and effective. We will address the structure of speeches and effective use of POIs more in depth within the next lesson, for now keep the general roles in mind as we move onto the content section of the lesson.

TOPIC THEORY: WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Government is the system by which nations or communities of individuals are controlled and moderated. The particular burdens of governmental institutions depend on which form of government is in question, but are typically in charge of making rules that are fair and to ensure that these rules are followed by society. In other words, they dictate the policies that a nation chooses to follow. In different forms of government, these policies are decided in different ways and they are enforced to different levels, but as history dictates, the controlled development of society depends on government. As such, conventional governments typically revolve around three groups of people: legislators, administrators and arbitrators. The following description of the basic functional components of government refers mostly to democratic systems.



Legislators, who compose the legislation, are those with the authority to make rules or laws for a political community, whether it be a town or a nation. Typically, these legislators are elected officials (democracies require legislators to be elected or chosen by elected officials), and they are separated into different stages of the legislative process. Members of a legislature typically represent different political parties with varying views, allowing newly presented legislation to pass through consideration, with perspectives from a diverse group. On left, is an image of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly Building, established in 1890, making it the first elected legislature in Western Australia.

Administrators, who compose the executive wing of government, are those who are responsible to govern the state, and execute the laws defined by the legislative branch. Often, members of the executive wing are elected officials who are also members of the legislative branch.

As seen below, the executive branch in these conventional systems is essentially composed of the leading member of the legislature along with the ministers controlling the various facets of the state. In order for the executive branch and all other branches to protect the society and provide services, they collect taxes from both individuals and businesses.

Role Title:	Function:
Head of State (President)	Symbol of National Unity
Head of Government (Prime Minister)	Administrative Affairs
Defence Minister	Armed Forces and External Safety
Interior Minister	Police Forces and Internal Safety
Foreign Minister	Diplomatic Affairs and Foreign Relations
Finance Minister	Fiscal Policy and Budget
Justice Minister	Prosecution/Corrections and Courts

Finally, Arbitrators compose the judicial branch, which is responsible for the review of laws, and interpretation of legislation, including constitution and regulations. The powers of the judicial authority in nations is perhaps the one branch that varies most between states, but it is important to recognize that the judicial system does not monitor the development of laws, only their interpretation or application, including criminal prosecution and the court system, which runs on local, and national stages. On right is the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the American State of New York.



Ultimately, the separation of power among these branches of government ensures that power cannot be concentrated in the hands of a small group, and remains balanced. It must be noted, however, that conventional government relies on these branches and their various functions, but not all governments follow this conventional model, considering dictatorships and autocracies, where power often rests in the hands of the few. However, political scientists throughout the years have continued to support the idea that the democracy ensures a power balance, and legitimacy as an institution meant to represent the ideas of the people.

“It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried.”

- Sir Winston Churchill

Questions to Consider:

- How are the different functions and powers spread among the various branches of a national government?
- Why does government have to be controlled? What would happen if government was not controlled and its power was left unrestricted?
- Why do we need government? Does existence of government comment on human nature?

TOPIC CONTEXT: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNMENT?

Any particular system of government varies from another in the way that it spreads power among different parts and levels of the state. There are two major ways to look at these different systems of government, the first being a separation based on the level of centralization and a second based on the distribution of power. It is important to remember when examining these different styles of governance that they do much more than simply keep order through the legislation, administration and arbitration; they empower nations to promote general welfare - health, safe transportation and effective communication systems.

In the first classification system of governments, there are three main systems of government: unitary systems, federal systems, and confederate systems. These various systems differ based on the level of centralization, including that of government funding, decision-making and autonomy.

The first of these are unitary systems, with the highest degree of centralization. In other words, unitary systems ensure that the central government holds all of the power, while lower-scope governments (provincial/state/local) merely implement policies of the central administration. When extended, these systems actually impose nationally consistent policies that apply uniformly to all regions and communities. As a result, there are advantages with there being equality across internal borders, while there is gross disrespect for local differences.

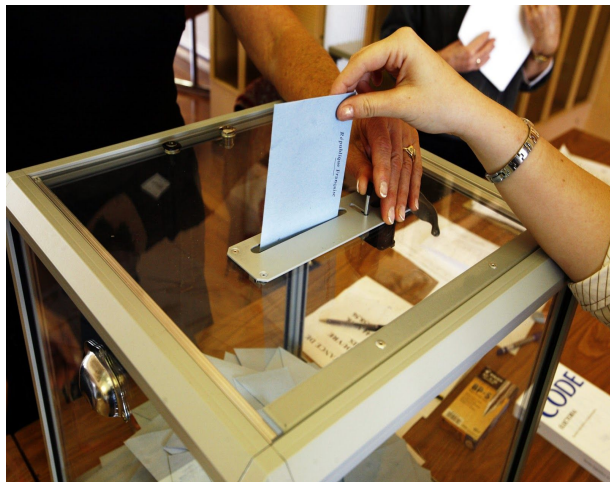
The second of these systems are federal systems, with the mix of national and state centralization. Although these two autonomous governments cannot make joint decisions as a unitary system, they do have specific domains that they each are responsible for. A typical separation would be foreign policy/national defense vs. local policy. However, it must be noted that this boundary is often blurred and national policy often fails to meld.

The third of these systems are confederate systems, which sit on the opposite end of the spectrum when compared with unitary systems. A confederacy is a relationship among several independent political actors. Often, these alliances do not add up to much more than agreements, rather than a cohesive national policy. Local governments act freely, but fail to ensure cooperation, with very little central coordination power.

Below, there is a consolidation of much of the information presented above, with methods of analyzing particular government scenarios based on centralization of power:

System	Level of Centralization	Strength	Weakness
Unitary (China, France, Japan, United Kingdom)	HIGH	Uniform Policies, ensuring equality and union.	Disregards local division and differences
Federal (United States, Germany, Australia, Canada)	MEDIUM	Powerful local governments and policies	Sacrifices national union
Confederate (Belgium)	LOW	Complete control to individual communities	Sacrifices national union to a great extent

The second system of dividing government types would be based on power division, specifically focusing on the ideologies of a regime. To further elaborate, regimes endure beyond individual governments and leaders, and are analyzed based on power separation. The two main groups in question would be those of democracies and those of authoritarian systems.



Democracies are based on the will of the people, mandating either an indirect or a direct form of government. In indirect systems, there are elected officials who represent the views of their respective constituencies, while direct democracies involve systems where individuals have immediate say over the decisions made by a government. Democracies are most typically organized according to the three separate branches elaborated on earlier: executive, legislative and judicial.

Some democracies are organized in the parliamentary system, where citizens vote for legislative representatives, which in turn select for the leaders of the executive branch. In this form of democracy, legislature makes laws, controls finances, appoints and dismisses members of the executive branch. The parliamentary system ensures that there is a separation between the head of state (typically representing power and nature of the regime), and the head of government (a role that is concerned with daily function of a regime).

Other democracies are organized in the presidential system. In this type of democracy, the roles of head of state and head of government are given to one person - the president. This central figure is directly elected by the people and serves as chief executive within a system of checks and balances between the two branches in question. Essentially running both the legislative and executive branches, there are important public opinion aspects that are essential to the running of a presidential system as compared to parliamentary systems.

The second group of political systems are authoritarian regimes. These systems are those where decisions are made by political elites: those who hold political power, without much input from citizens. These regimes are ruled by a single dictator, a hereditary monarch, a small group of powerful aristocrats or a single political party. The economy is generally tightly controlled by the political power. There are several types of these groups, essentially composed of aspects from totalitarian systems, military regimes or non-parliamentary systems of communism.

*“The Government is us You and I,
We are the Government”*

- Theodore Roosevelt

Questions to Consider:

- How do countries make decisions about which form of government they are going to pursue, and who is involved in this decision-making?
- What happens when a country chooses to change their decision on their government structure? Who makes these decisions?
- When the Arab Spring occurred, what were people fighting for and against?

RESOLUTION AND DIRECTIONS

THBT the elected representative system is effective.

In preparing for this debate, make sure to use examples from the real world, especially considering we live in an elected representative system. Remember to research both sides of the debate so you better understand the topic and are able to prepare for potential clash points the other team may bring forward. Here are some example pillars to help you get started:

Proposition	Opposition
An elected representative system ensures that everyone gets a say	An elected representative system is not always punctual or efficient in their decision making
An elected representative system allows for a more efficient model of democracy as not every citizen has to vote on every issue	An elected representative system does not properly represent all groups within a certain area, only the group which holds the population majority

GAME: RAPID FIRE SPEECH

This is one of the most commonly used and simple games available to practice your speech, whether you are with a group or are alone. Prepare any random assortment of words to use during this game. The less related these words are, the better, as it will really force to be able to change direction in any situation. Decide the amount of time you want to spend on each word, typically 10-15 seconds is a good place to start. Pick any one of the words and begin speaking on it, once 10-15 seconds have passed, move onto another word, while trying to make as seamless a transition as possible. In the beginning, just try to avoid stuttering, stopping, and hesitating. Say whatever you can to transition between the two words, even if it does not make that much sense. As you get better and better at this game, you can try to see if you can weave a logical story or speech out of the given words!