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**Middle School Public Forum Debate**

**Speaker Scripts**

**Version 2.15**

# Public Forum Debate Speech Order and Times

4 min. 1st Pro Case—present pro contentions for the topic

4 min. 1st Con Case—present con contentions against the topic

3 min. Question and Answer between 1st speakers

Each side gets 4 minutes prep time during the debate to use as they wish before their speeches and crossfires.

4 min. 2nd Pro Rebuttal—respond to the con contentions

4 min. 2nd Con Rebuttal—respond to the pro contentions

3 min. Question and Answer between 2nd speakers

3 min. 1st Pro Summary (PS)—defend your pro contentions

3 min. 1st Con Summary (CS)—defend your con contentions

3 min. Question and Answer, all speakers participate

3 min. 2nd Pro Final Focus (PFF)—show you win the contentions & weigh arguments

3 min. 2nd Con Final Focus (CFF)—show you win the contentions & weigh arguments

## All Debaters—Have your evidence files open on your laptop!

## All Debaters—Have your two flowsheets ready to go!

***Preflow your case contentions in the 1P or 1C column before the debate starts.***

**Pro Flowsheet *(for pro contentions and con responses to the pro contentions)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1P (pro contentions)** | **2C (responses to pro contentions)** | **1PS (defend pro contentions)** | **2PFF (we win the pro-contentions)** | **2CFF (we defeated the pro-contentions)** |

**Con Flowsheet *(for con contentions and pro responses to the con contentions)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1C (con contentions)** | **2P (responses to con contentions)** | **1CS (defend con contentions)** | **2PFF (we defeat the con contentions)** | **2CFF (we win the con-contentions)** |

# 1st Pro Speaker Script

**SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)**

**HAVE YOUR LAPTOP CASE AND SUMMARY DEFENSE FILES OPEN—READY TO USE**

**SCRIPT FOR 1ST PRO CASE SPEECH (PRESENT YOUR CONTENTIONS)**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**We want to solve *(state the problem(s) the topic solves)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**We are for the topic (state it EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS WORDED.)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In my speech, I will present two contentions, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Our First Contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_READ FROM YOUR CASE DOCUMENT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Read your Contention including problem, topic solves, impact.**

**Our Second Contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_READ FROM YOUR CASE DOCUMENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Read your Contention including problem, topic solves, impact.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Pro side. Then keep flowing.**

**After the 1st Con Speaker, ask and answer questions: Crossfire. Where did you prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Where did you show the impact to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**After Crossfire: Take more notes and help your partners with their speeches when it is helpful (you can pass them a clearly written note—but don’t interrupt them).**

**FLOW RESPONSES TO THE 2ND CON SPEAKER’S REBUTTALS FOR YOUR SUMMARY SPEECH.**

**SCRIPT FOR 1ST PRO SUMMARY SPEECH (DEFEND YOUR CASE!)**

**In our first contention \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name your contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off reasons/experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**They tried to argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That’s wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then, they tried to argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That’s not true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Use your flowsheet, read \_short\_ evidence from your file.**

**So, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sum up this contention/arguments).**

**Do the same for your second contention.**

**Have time left? Remind the judge of your best attacks against the con case.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Pro side. Then keep flowing.**

**After the 1st Con Summary speech, join in the Grand Crossfire. Ask & answer questions. Then, keep flowing**

# 2nd Pro Speaker Script

**SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)**

**HAVE YOUR REBUTTALS FILE OPEN ON YOUR COMPUTER—READY TO USE**

**FLOW THE 1ST CON, SPENDING 90% OF YOUR TIME FLOWING RESPONSES**

**SCRIPT FOR 2nd PRO REBUTTAL SPEECH (RESPOND TO CON CONTENTIONS)**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**My partner showed *(concisely restate your contentions)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Against the Con’s First Contention \_\_state their contention in 2 to 5 words\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First, \_tag/support\_\_. Second, \_tag/quotation\_\_. Third, \_tag/quotation\_\_\_.**

**USE YOUR FLOWSHEET AND READ AT LEAST 2 QUOTATIONS.**

**Against the Con’s Second Contention \_\_state their contention in 2 to 5 words\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First, \_tag/support\_\_. Second, \_tag/quotation\_\_. Third, \_tag/quotation\_\_\_.**

**USE YOUR FLOWSHEET AND READ AT LEAST 2 QUOTATIONS.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Pro side.**

**Keep Flowing, then after the 2nd Con speech, ask and answer questions, Crossfire. Where did you prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Where did you show the impact to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**After Crossfire: Help your partner QUIETLY when it is helpful (during their speech, you can pass them a clearly written note—but don’t interrupt them)**

**AND participate in the Grand Crossfire—ask and answer questions.**

**AND FLOW ALL THE SPEECHES AND FLOW YOUR ARGUMENTS FOR YOUR FINAL FOCUS.**

**SCRIPT FOR 2nd PRO FINAL FOCUS SPEECH (SHOW YOU WIN)**

**Use your flowsheet . . . and say . . .**

**We win our first contention \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name your contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off reasons/experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons) As you do this—show you beat their best responses. Keep it short so you have time to weigh!**

**Do the same for your second contention.**

**We defeated their first contention \_\_\_ (name their contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off your best response(s) to the contention including with reasons/  
experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons) As you do this—show you beat their arguments.**

**Do the same for their second contention.**

**Weigh: “Even if they win \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (their best argument), we still win because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (explain why your argument has more impact or is stronger).**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Pro side. Then keep flowing.**

# 1st Con Speaker Script

**SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)**

**HAVE YOUR LAPTOP CASE AND SUMMARY DEFENSE FILES OPEN—READY TO USE**

**SCRIPT FOR 1ST CON CASE SPEECH (PRESENT YOUR CONTENTIONS)**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The topic will cause these problems *(based on your contentions)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**We are AGAINST the topic (state it EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS WORDED.)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In my speech, I will present two contentions, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Our First Contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_READ FROM YOUR CASE DOCUMENT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Read your Contention including topic cause problem, impact.**

**Our Second Contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_READ FROM YOUR CASE DOCUMENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Read your Contention including topic causes problem, impact.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Con side.**

**After your speech, ask and answer questions: Crossfire. Where did you prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Where did you show the impact to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**After Crossfire: Keep Flowing and Help your partner QUIETLY when it is helpful (during their speech, you can pass them a clearly written note—but don’t interrupt them)**

**FLOW RESPONSES TO THE 2ND PRO SPEAKER’S REBUTTALS FOR YOUR SUMMARY SPEECH.**

**SCRIPT FOR 1ST CON SUMMARY SPEECH (DEFEND YOUR CASE!)**

**In our first contention \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name your contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off reasons/experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**They tried to argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That’s wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then, they tried to argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That’s not true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Use your flowsheet, read \_short\_ evidence from your file.**

**So, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sum up this contention/arguments).**

**Do the same for your second contention.**

**Have time left? Remind the judge of your best attacks against the con case.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Con side.**

**After your summary speech, join in the Grand Crossfire. Ask & answer questions. Then keep flowing.**

# 2nd Con Speaker Script

**SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)**

**HAVE YOUR REBUTTALS FILE OPEN ON YOUR COMPUTER—READY TO USE**

**FLOW THE 1ST PRO, SPENDING 90% OF YOUR TIME FLOWING RESPONSES**

**SCRIPT FOR 2nd CON REBUTTAL SPEECH (RESPOND TO PRO CONTENTIONS)**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**My partner showed *(concisely restate your contentions)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Against the Pro’s First Contention \_\_state their contention in 2 to 5 words\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First, \_tag/support\_\_. Second, \_tag/quotation\_\_. Third, \_tag/quotation\_\_\_.**

**USE YOUR FLOWSHEET AND READ AT LEAST 2 QUOTATIONS.**

**Against the Pro’s Second Contention \_\_state their contention in 2 to 5 words\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**First, \_tag/support\_\_. Second, \_tag/quotation\_\_. Third, \_tag/quotation\_\_\_.**

**USE YOUR FLOWSHEET AND READ AT LEAST 2 QUOTATIONS.**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Con side.**

**After your speech, ask and answer questions, Crossfire. Where did you prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Where did you show the impact to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**After Crossfire: Keep Flowing and Help your partner QUIETLY when it is helpful (during their speech, you can pass them a clearly written note—but don’t interrupt them)**

**AND participate in the Grand Crossfire—ask and answer questions.**

**AND FLOW ALL THE SPEECHES AND FLOW YOUR ARGUMENTS FOR YOUR FINAL FOCUS.**

**SCRIPT FOR 2nd CON FINAL FOCUS SPEECH (SHOW YOU WIN)**

**Use your flowsheet . . . and say . . .**

**We win our first contention \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name your contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off reasons/experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons) As you do this—show you beat their best responses. Keep it short so you have time to weigh!**

**Do the same for your second contention.**

**We defeated their first contention \_\_\_ (name their contention in 2 to 5 words)**

**We showed *(concisely list off your best response(s) to the contention including with reasons/  
experts/studies/stats you presented in your contention)*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Use your flowsheet to write the reasons) As you do this—show you beat their arguments.**

**Do the same for their second contention.**

**Weigh: “Even if they win \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (their best argument), we still win because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (explain why your argument has more impact or is stronger).**

**Conclude: We urge you to vote for the Con side.**

# CROSSFIRE Tips on Asking and Answering Questions

**Begin Question and Answer by asking “May I have the first question” or “Do you want the first question.”**

REALLY IMPORTANT—Try to ask as many questions as you can—while still giving your opponents the opportunity to respond. Taking control of the crossfire is a great way to win a debate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***ASKING***  1. **Face the judge**—you are trying to convince the judge, not your opponent  2. **Use a line of questioning**—you said this, right? Doesn’t that mean x? If that is true, that shows y, right?  3. **Avoid open ended questions** that let your opponent answer with their own opinion or the ideas in their case.  NO! “Do you believe . . .?”  NO! “Don’t you think . . .?”  *Such questions let your opponents say whatever they want to defend their side.*  4. **Ask questions that force them to defend what they said in their speech.**  YES! ”Where did you show. . .?”  YES! “What proof did you provide for the argument . . .?”  *Make them refer to or restate what they said in their speech—don’t let them state their opinion.*  5. **Be assertive but not aggressive.** Don’t make personal attacks  6. **Don’t be defensive.** Try to show you are calm and collected even if you are nervous (which is common). | ***ANSWERING***  1. **Face the judge**—you are trying to convince the judge, not your opponent  2. **Do not pause before answering**—try to answer right away—immediately.  *Long pauses make it seem you don’t know your arguments well.*  3. **Don’t just answer yes-no—add on explanation**. Get out of just responding to their questions—use their question as a chance to repeat key points in your case.  Example Question: “Your proposal would cost a lot of money, right.”  Example Answers:  NO! “Well, yes, but . . .”  NO! “No.” (no reason given)  YES! “No, it saves the economy money, lowers consumer costs, and is a good investment as our second contention showed.”  **YES EVEN BETTER—KNOW YOUR SOURCES AND SPECIFIC DATA! “No, the Stevens study showed it saves the economy $2.3 billon, lowers consumer costs 3 to 7 percent, and is a good investment.”**  4. **Watch out for lines of questioning and where they are leading**—avoid admitting things harmful to your case.  5a. **If asked “what proof did you provide”** try to respond with what you did show (avoid admitting that you did not provide proof)  Example Question: “What proof did you provide that your proposal is inexpensive?”  NO! “Well, you’re right, we did not prove that.”  YES “We have shown over and again that the proposal is a good investment that helps the economy and saves consumers money.”  5b. **If they press further, say** “Make that argument in your next speech and I will respond” (allowing you to respond and to not admit you failed to prove an argument).  6. **Don’t be defensive.** Try to show you are calm and collected even if you are nervous (which is common). |

# CROSSFIRE Practice and Examples of Questions

## Practice!

--with another debater (or several other debaters), ask questions and answer questions about your cases and your rebuttals.

--maybe ask your parent(s)/guardians questions about the death penalty.

--think of a flawed argument—a weak argument with poor support. Now, ask a question about it.

--read a short article or short section of an article about the death penalty and ask a question about it to yourself.

## Examples of questions to ask:

**--ask them about missing proofs**

Where did you prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Eg Where did you show anyone after 2000 and DNA tests has someone been wrongly convicted of a crime?

**--ask them about arguments against their case to see how they will respond**

Eg How is it moral to kill someone to show that killing is wrong?

Eg Won’t removing the death penalty just mean dangerous prisoners will be left in jail?

**--ask them to compare arguments**

Eg Where did you show deterrence is more important than racism and killing innocent people?

**--ask to point out contradictions**

Eg You said vengeance is good but then you also said life imprisonment is cruel. Isn’t that a contradiction—I mean if life imprisonment is cruel—doesn’t that satisfy your belief in vengeance?

**--ask them to explain their evidence/arguments**

Eg How did they conclude 4.5 times as many African Americans were given the death penalty? Did they consider the type of crimes?

**--ask them about their conclusions**

Eg Do you really think we should kill people because it might lead other people to be deterred from killing?

Eg You’ve claimed several innocent people might have been executed in the past. Does that really mean we should end the death penalty today?