

21. POST-DEBATE ASSESSMENT

GOAL:

To encourage students to think about a debate after it has ended and to focus on future improvement.

METHOD:

- Debaters may wish to forget a debate once it ends. To avoid repeating the same mistakes over again, it is important to encourage debaters to focus on improvement while the debate is still fresh in their heads.
- Sitting with a coach after a round, debaters should specifically review what was said and discuss questions such as:
 - What were the strongest arguments?**
 - What argument presented the greatest challenge?**
 - How could arguments be rethought to be more resistant to attack?**
- If coaches cannot be physically present, a post-debate questionnaire can pose the same questions. Coaches can review the answers at another time.

22. IMPROMPTU FORMAT DEBATE

GOAL:

To get students to remember the format of debate by practicing with a fun and easy topic.

METHOD:

- Pick a very easy topic and have two teams of students go through the motions of giving speeches within the conventional format.
- In running this exercise, it is not important how long the students speak, and it is not really important whether they make good arguments or not. What is important is that they develop a sense of “who speaks when.”
- The instructor can pause between speeches in order to talk about the goal of the upcoming speech or cross-examination period.