



10.5 In-Round Division of Labor

This activity develops teamwork and strategic decision-making on the negative side of the debate. It gets students to think about when and why to divide work between teammates.

Time Allotment

30 minutes.

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- generate as a class efficient ways of working as partners during a debate round
- begin to think about the importance of teamwork and cooperation in debate.

Method

In small groups or as a class, have students discuss strategies for dividing in-round labor between partners, especially between the 2NC and 1NR speeches in the negative block. Before they begin, have a large group brainstorming session about why dividing tasks is important: you don't want to repeat yourself, it keeps the judge's flow clean, time constraints, etc.

Students could begin their discussion by talking about how they approached dividing responsibilities in a recent practice round or tournament. Then they should talk about different ways to divide tasks. Possibilities include dividing:

- By expertise: "My partner knows more about X disadvantage"
- Because of time required: "It's a complicated flow, there may not be time in the 1NR."
- Because of strategic importance: "The 2N is going to be going for it in the 2NR, so he may as well cover it in the 2NC," or "We should put it in the 1NR so the 1AR has less time to respond."

When the students are finished, have the class discuss the pros and cons of each strategy.

Variation:

When the discussions are finished, you could break up the students into partners and have teams strategize different ways they will divide the negative block during their next tournament. But remember to emphasize that these plans should be flexible, and they should adapt to different rounds.