

# Debate Master Rules

So far, all the argument has been on the Republican side with the Democrats playing a much lower key game with respect to the public debate. The Clear Lake Tea Party has decided to host a debate that will allow both Republican grassroots views of the proposed legislation be debated in a local public forum before the citizens in the Greater Houston area.

Tonight's debate will address the proposed immigration reform legislation in two separate questions: 1) Does the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013" adequately address current shortcomings in legal immigration law and provide adequate deterrence of illegal entry to the United States? 2) Does the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013" provide appropriate solutions to the estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently residing within the borders of the United States and protect America's borders from unregulated immigration, criminal activities, and terrorist infiltrations?

The CLTP has chosen the **team policy debate** format, the most popular debate format practiced in American high schools, for the debate addressing the legislation proposed by the "Gang of Eight" in the United States Senate. Since the legislation has been proposed and is currently being dealt with in the US Senate, the team supporting the legislation shall be designated the *Affirmative*<sup>1</sup> or the *Pro-Bill Team* and the team opposing the bill will be the *Negative* or the *Anti-Bill Team*. Each team will be composed of two debaters on each side. These four debaters will be the only participants in the debate (not including the Debate Master and the audience).

Each of the two questions given will be addressed in two (2) rounds of eight (8) speeches. The first four (4) speeches are called constructive speeches because the teams will be laying out their most important arguments in these speeches. The last four (4) speeches are called rebuttal speeches because the teams are expected to extend and apply arguments that have already been made rather than injecting new arguments into the debate. The following table describes the speech layout and time limits:

|         | Constructive Arguments |        |        |        | Rebuttal Arguments |        |        |        |
|---------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Speech: | IAC                    | INC    | 2AC    | 2NC    | INR                | IAR    | 2NR    | 2AR    |
| Time:   | 8 min.                 | 8 min. | 8 min. | 8 min. | 4 min.             | 4 min. | 4 min. | 4 min. |

(A = Affirmative Team; N = Negative Team; C = Constructive; and R = Rebuttal)

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the terms Affirmative and Negative are not pejorative terms but merely a way to discriminate between the two teams in the debating format.

It should be noted that in this format the Affirmative team will begin and end the round but the Negative will have two speeches in a row. It is expected that team members alternate speeches. There will also be a **three (3) minute cross-examination opportunity** after each of the first four (4) constructive speeches. Cross-examinations will be of a give-and-take nature. Both teams will remain civil and cordial at all times. Consequently, each round of the debate will be approximately 60 minutes. There will be a five (5) minute break between the two (2) debate rounds.

After the debate has concluded, the audience will be asked by a show of hands those supporting the immigration reform legislation and those who are against the bill.

- 1) Does the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013" adequately address current shortcomings in legal immigration law and provide adequate deterrence of illegal entry to the United States?

|         | Constructive Arguments |           |          |           | Rebuttal Arguments |          |           |          |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Speech: | Pro-Bill               | Anti-Bill | Pro-Bill | Anti-Bill | Anti-Bill          | Pro-Bill | Anti-Bill | Pro-Bill |
| Name:   |                        |           |          |           |                    |          |           |          |
| Time:   | 8 min.                 | 8 min.    | 8 min.   | 8 min.    | 4 min.             | 4 min.   | 4 min.    | 4 min.   |

- 2) Does the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013" provide appropriate solutions to the estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently residing within the borders of the United States and protect America's borders from unregulated immigration, criminal activities, and terrorist infiltrations?

|         | Constructive Arguments |           |          |           | Rebuttal Arguments |          |           |          |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Speech: | Pro-Bill               | Anti-Bill | Pro-Bill | Anti-Bill | Anti-Bill          | Pro-Bill | Anti-Bill | Pro-Bill |
| Name:   |                        |           |          |           |                    |          |           |          |
| Time:   | 8 min.                 | 8 min.    | 8 min.   | 8 min.    | 4 min.             | 4 min.   | 4 min.    | 4 min.   |