
Grange Debate (NEW Regional Contest)

(National Program)

Debate is a wonderful way to build critical thinking skills, articulate your thoughts, educate yourself on various topics, form empathy for your opponent and their beliefs, build presentation skills, expand world views, and build confidence.

As Grange Youth, we should be able to gather research on a topic from reputable sources, form an argument/ position based on their position. Participants should also be able to listen to the opposing positions(s)/argument(s) and issue a rebuttal with calmness in deliberation, forbearance to those who you differ from and charity toward their motives.

Format: Total estimated time for one round of 40 minutes

Team Pro:	Team Con:
4 Minute speech, 2-minute Cross Examination	4 Minute speech, 2-minute Cross Examination
4 Minute speech, 2-minute Cross Examination	4 Minute speech, 2-minute Cross Examination
1 minute preparation, 5-minute speech	1 minute preparation, 5-minute speech

Speech time refers to 1 person speaking in favor of or in opposition to the resolution without interruption. Cross examination following a speech refers to a period when a member of the team which did not give the speech asks questions of the person who has just spoken.

Team structure:

2 speakers, 2 researchers – 1 speaker must be a youth,
1 researcher must be a youth.
1 team per state in the region.

Potential Topic Areas:

- Food waste/security
- Climate change and its solutions
- Trade (protectionism vs. free trade)
- Or other Grange related policies or topics

The topic for all Grange Debate teams at regional conferences will be given on Friday of the conference and the Debate will take place on Saturday night of the regional conference giving teams time to prepare and research.

Ballots:

Winner is determined by a combination of three ballots:

1. Judge vote – expert judges decide which team they believe won
2. Audience vote – the audience votes on who they think won the debate
3. Audience shift vote – the audience indicates a preference on the topic before the debate round (Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree) and after the debate round. For a movement of position by 1 place (i.e., from agree to neutral) a team is awarded 1 point, the team which has accumulated the most points by this system wins this rounds ballot.

Full descriptions and forms of National contests, scholarships, awards and opportunities including some not listed above are not yet finalized. We anticipate that they will be able to be downloaded from the National Grange Youth web site, under the News and Resources, tab, Youth Downloads, at this URL

<https://nationalgrangeyouth.org/youth-downloads/>
