



Argumentum Event- Guideline Sheet

Purpose

The Argumentum Event builds students' **critical thinking, collaboration, and debate skills**. Teams analyze real-world topics, construct evidence-based arguments, and defend their positions.

Team Structure

- Teams of 6 students (3 students argue for Affirmative and 3 argue for the Opposing position)
- Grouped by grade level
- All members must present and participate in the rebuttal

Event Format

1. Topic Assignment

Teams receive a grade-appropriate debate topic or question, and each topic will be subdivided into three levels. For example, the main topic focuses on restricting cell phone use. The subtopics would focus on the school level, student level, and parent level. Each group will debate 3 times.

2. Preparation Time

The student groups will have 60 minutes to conduct their research and prepare for their debates. The group of 6 will be broken into two groups: Affirmative and Opposing. Each group will present only their group's side (affirmative or opposing). If, for example, your group of 3 is arguing for the opposition of the issue, then you will only argue the opposition side for each of the 3 debates during the competition day. The other 3 students arguing the affirmative position will only present the affirmative side against other teams. Even though the team of 6 is split into two different groups, their score will be combined to form the group score. Teams work together to:

- Develop a clear **claim (position)**
- Gather **supporting evidence**

- Prepare **counterarguments and rebuttals**

3. **Presentation**

Teams present their argument:

- Speak clearly and respectfully
- Support ideas with evidence

4. **Defense Phase**

- Opponents will be given a chance for rebuttal by asking questions of the other team
- Teams must defend and explain their reasoning

Judging Criteria

Teams are scored in the following areas:

- Clarity of Argument
- Use of Evidence
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Communication Skills
- Response & Defense

Scoring

- Judges will use the official **Argumentum Score Card**
- Each category is scored individually
- Total points determine rankings

Rules & Expectations

- Maintain **respectful and professional behavior**
- Ensure **equal participation** among team members
- Stay within all **time limits**
- Conduct research **outside of AI**
- Inappropriate behavior may result in **point deductions**