



## DebateFest Hexa Augumentum

*DebateFest believes every student deserves the opportunity to speak, lead, defend ideas, and think critically. The Hexa Argumentum Model represents our commitment to expanding access to debate while creating a challenging, innovative, and meaningful experience for students around the world.*

### **A New Approach to Debate. A New Challenge for Students.**

The Hexa Argumentum Model is DebateFest's innovative debate format designed to expand participation, deepen learning, and strengthen critical thinking. Traditional debate competitions often limit participation to one or two students speaking for a team. The Hexa Argumentum Model transforms that experience by engaging six students on every team, creating more opportunities for collaboration, leadership, research, and public speaking.

Built on the principle that debate should be accessible, educational, and transformative, the Hexa Argumentum Model challenges students to examine complex issues from multiple perspectives while developing the skills necessary for success in school, college, careers, and civic life.

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### **Why the Hexa Argumentum Model?**

Debate is one of the most effective educational tools available. Yet only a small percentage of students have access to meaningful debate opportunities. DebateFest created the Hexa Argumentum Model to make debate more inclusive while increasing student engagement and learning.

The model is designed to:

- Involve more students in every debate

- Increase opportunities for speaking and leadership
  - Encourage deeper research and analysis
  - Strengthen teamwork and collaboration
  - Develop empathy through perspective-taking
  - Improve communication and critical thinking skills
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## The Six Pillars of the Hexa Argumentum Model

### 1. Six-Person Debate Teams

Each debate team consists of six students.

Every participant plays an important role in researching, preparing, presenting, and defending arguments. The six-person structure promotes collaboration, accountability, and shared leadership while allowing students with different strengths to contribute to team success.

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### 2. Six Subtopics

Each debate topic is divided into six subtopics.

Rather than examining an issue from a single perspective, students explore multiple dimensions of the topic. This approach encourages comprehensive research and allows teams to investigate the social, economic, political, ethical, scientific, and practical aspects of important issues.

Students gain a deeper understanding of complex problems while learning how different factors influence public policy and decision-making.

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### 3. Sixty Minutes of Research and Preparation

Teams are provided with sixty minutes to prepare.

During this preparation period, students conduct research, organize evidence, develop arguments, anticipate counterarguments, and assign speaking responsibilities.

The preparation phase mirrors real-world problem solving by requiring teams to work efficiently, analyze information, and make strategic decisions under time constraints.

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#### **4. Six Debates Per Team**

Each team participates in six separate debates.

This structure provides significantly more opportunities for students to speak, learn, and improve. Instead of a single debate determining success, students gain experience across multiple rounds and multiple issues.

The result is increased confidence, greater participation, and accelerated skill development.

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#### **5. Teams Argue Both Sides**

One of the most unique aspects of the Hexa Argumentum Model is that teams argue both the affirmative and negative sides of issues.

Students must learn to understand and defend viewpoints that may differ from their personal beliefs. This develops intellectual flexibility, empathy, open-mindedness, and a more sophisticated understanding of public issues.

The goal is not simply to win arguments but to understand them.

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#### **6. Collaboration as a Competitive Advantage**

The Hexa Argumentum Model rewards teamwork.

Students learn to listen, cooperate, share responsibilities, and build consensus. Success depends not only on individual performance but also on the ability of team members to work together toward a common goal.

These collaboration skills are essential for success in higher education, the workplace, and leadership roles throughout life.

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### **Skills Developed Through the Hexa Argumentum Model**

Students participating in the Hexa Argumentum Model strengthen:

#### **Communication Skills**

Develop confidence in speaking, presenting, persuading, and engaging audiences.

## **Critical Thinking Skills**

Analyze evidence, evaluate arguments, identify assumptions, and make informed decisions.

## **Collaboration Skills**

Work effectively with teammates to solve problems and achieve shared goals.

## **Leadership Skills**

Take initiative, assume responsibility, and contribute to team success.

## **Research Skills**

Locate, evaluate, and apply credible information to support arguments.

## **Civic Engagement Skills**

Understand public issues and become informed, responsible participants in democracy.

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## **More Than a Competition**

The Hexa Argumentum Model is more than a debate format.

It is a learning experience designed to help students discover their voices, develop confidence, embrace challenges, and prepare for future success.

By combining collaboration, research, communication, and critical thinking, the Hexa Argumentum Model provides a dynamic and engaging educational experience that empowers students to become stronger thinkers, better speakers, effective leaders, and active citizens.

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