

Dialectic: Protocols and Structure

Opening Position

DISCOVERY

Closing Proposal

To begin with...

- A table and two chairs should be set up at the front of the room.
- Students should have a blank note card and a pen or pencil.
- **Judge picks a student timer!**
- Judge assigns AFF/NEG, offers resolutions envelope.
- AFF speaker crosses off one resolution of three. NEG crosses off another resolution.
- The final resolution will be debated.
- **Timer begins by saying “2 minutes.”**

1. Silent Preparation - 2 minutes

Timer gives time signals out loud: 1, ½ minute, 10 seconds. Say “Time’s up.”

2. AFF Position Speech – 2 minutes

Timer gives silent hand signals at 1, ½ minute, 10 sec. Time.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

3. NEG Position Speech – 2 minutes

Timer gives silent hand signals at 1, ½ minute, 10 sec. Time

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

4. DISCOVERY through discussion! 4 minutes

Students may remain seated. It’s easier to take notes and connect.

Timer starts Discovery by saying “Four minutes” out loud and continues to give time signals out loud, discreetly, at 3, 2, 1, ½ minute, 10 sec, Say “Time’s Up.”

Be respectful. Be productive!

Forget taking questions from the audience.

Forget your adversarial stance.

Connect with your opponent & discover what’s possible!

Your tools and intentions are...

- a) questioning – clarify your opponent’s position
- b) establishing common ground – finding potential compromise areas
- c) brainstorming - Is there a third way - another way to look at it?
- d) reflecting - check notes, collect thoughts – some quiet time is okay

5. AFF Closing Proposal Speech - 2 minutes

Timer gives silent visual time signals at 1, ½ minute, and 30 seconds.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

6. NEG Closing Proposal Speech - 2 minutes

Timer gives silent visual signals at 1, ½ minute, and 30 seconds.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

Students will be assessed on **presentation, persuasion, and reasoning** (especially in the position speech), as well as **questioning & evaluation, compromise and problem-solving** (especially in the discovery process and closing proposals).