

SPAR: Spontaneous Argumentation

SPAR is a mini–semi-debate: fast, fun, and often a little silly. The goal isn't to have the most research—it's to think on your feet, use what you know, make strong arguments, and keep the audience engaged.

How It Works

Pair Up & Get Your Side: You'll be paired with an opponent and assigned Pro (for the topic) or Con (against the topic) before you see the topics.

Choose the Topic

- Each pair gets 3 potential topics (expect a mix of semi-serious and lighthearted ideas—think “Should pineapple belong on pizza?” or “Cats vs. Dogs: Who rules the world?”).
- Pro strikes first (removes one topic).
- Con strikes second (removes one topic).
- The remaining topic is your debate resolution.
- Prep Time: You have 2 minutes total to prepare your arguments. That's it. No extra prep during the debate.

Debate Format (12 minutes total)

- Pro Constructive (2 min): Make your case for the topic.
- Con Constructive (2 min): Respond and argue against the topic.
- Crossfire (4 min): Both debaters ask and answer questions. This is your chance to challenge ideas and show quick thinking.
- Pro Rebuttal (2 min): Refute Con's points and strengthen your case.
- Con Rebuttal (2 min): Refute Pro's points and close the debate.

Tips for Success

- Keep it simple: Pick 2–3 strong points you can explain clearly.
- Be creative: Humor and clever examples can make your case memorable.
- Stay engaged: Listen carefully and respond directly to your opponents.
- Own the crossfire: Ask sharp questions and answer confidently.
- Have fun: SPAR is about energy and adaptability, not perfection.
- Bottom line: SPAR is your chance to show off quick thinking, persuasive speaking, and maybe even a little wit. Bring your personality, stay respectful, and have fun!