

## SPAR instructions

**Directions:** *SPAR stands for SPontaneous ARgumentation. 6-8 people directly participate in a round. Others may ask questions.*

1. Speakers 1 and 2 are called up to the judge. A coin is flipped. The winner of the toss gets the choice of topic or side. The opponent gets the remaining choice.
2. Let's say speaker 1 wins the toss and selects side. Speaker 2 will get to look at two topics and can choose either one. The topic is provided to everyone in the room and speaker 1 must choose to go affirmative or negative.
3. Debaters get one-minute to organize thoughts and take notes. The audience thinks of questions to ask.
4. Format
  - 1-minute Prep for both
  - 2-minutes Affirmative makes opening statement
  - 2-minutes Negative makes opening statement and rebuts affirmative
  - 4-minutes Questioning by debaters, audience, and judge. Open forum, but judge keeps time.
  - 2-minutes Affirmative makes closing statement
  - 2-minutes Negative makes closing statement
5. Once the first debate is done, the second debate starts. This continues until everyone has had a chance to debate. If there is an odd number of debaters someone gets to debate twice, but only the first debate counts for his/her score.
6. At the conclusion of all debates the judge ranks all the speakers 1-5 based upon criteria in the ballot.

### Sample Topics for SPAR

- 1a. Vampires vs Werewolves.
- 1b. Football vs soccer
- 2a. Cigarettes should be made illegal.
- 2b. High schools should allow students to go off campus for lunch.
- 3a. Men knitting vs women wrestling.
- 3b. There should be mandatory Breathalyzer tests for all major high school events.
- 4a. Students should be limited to four years of high school.
- 4b. The environment is a more important factor than cost when it comes to decreasing our reliance upon oil.