

# DEBATE RULES

**DEBATE TOPIC**

Given its major effects on river life, the health of the river ecosystem, and how water naturally moves through the area, should the proposed dam project be built and run?

## YOUR GOAL FOR THE DABTE

Throughout the debate, remember to stay in character as your assigned stakeholder. Argue from their perspective, using the research you've gathered to support their interests and concerns.

## 2. ROUND 1: FOCUSED REBUTTAL (2-3 MIN PER GROUP)

Directly challenge or respond to a specific argument made by one opposing stakeholder group, or to address a general theme that has emerged. This shows you've been listening and can critically evaluate other viewpoints.

## 4. ROUND 2: ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS (2-3 MIN PER GROUP)

Each group will briefly present one or two potential mitigation strategies for the dam's negative impacts, or alternative solutions that could achieve the dam's benefits without its ecological costs. Demonstrate your stakeholder's willingness to find solutions or consider different approaches. This shows a nuanced understanding of the problem.

## 6. POST-DEBATE REFLECTION & DISCUSSION (10-15 MIN)

Students will transition out of their "character" and participate as themselves to reflect on the entire debate experience. As a call students will participate in a post-debate class discussion to express your thoughts and reflections on the ethical considerations of genetic modification.

## 1. OPENING STATEMENTS (3-4 MIN PER GROUP

Each stakeholder group will formally introduce themselves and clearly articulate their overall position regarding the proposed dam project. This segment requires the concise presentation of the group's 2-3 most compelling arguments, each supported by key evidence such as scientific data, relevant statistics, and illustrative examples. The objective is to establish a strong initial impression, effectively outlining the group's core perspective and laying the foundation for their stance in the debate. Adherence to the allotted time limit is mandatory.

## 3. OPEN FORUM/CROSS-EXAMINATION (20-30 MIN)

Participants will engage in a dynamic, unscripted exchange. Teams may ask direct questions to opposing groups to challenge arguments, seek clarification, or highlight evidence. All teams are expected to respond thoughtfully and concisely to questions directed at them, defending their position with supporting information.

## 5. CLOSING STATEMENTA (1-2 MIN PER GROUP)

Leave a lasting impression by summarizing your most compelling arguments, reiterating your stakeholder's final stance, and making a final appeal to the "decision-makers" (the class/teacher).