

Cats vs. Dogs Debate

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APPENDIX A: Debate Information and Academic Word List Wordbank

Debate: Cats Vs. Dogs

Team A: You will argue that cats make better pets than dogs.

Team B: You will argue that dogs make better pets than cats.

(Teams will be decided by a coin toss.)

The debate will have three parts:

1. *Opening statements:* Each team will choose one person to make a short opening statement in which (s)he will state the team's opinion about the topic. (Each team has 1 minute.)
2. *Open debate:* Raise your hand to make a point or ask the other side a question. Each member of your team should have at least one response or point to make. Everyone *must* participate. Once you are called on, you have a maximum of 1 minute to make your point. The other side will then be given an opportunity to respond. Each side must have *at least three* clear arguments to support your position.
3. *Closing statements:* Each team will choose another person to make a short closing statement that summarizes your team's opinion. Use different words from your opening statement. (Each team has 1 minute.)

In your debate team, assign different roles, such as a speaker for your opening statement, a speaker for your closing statement, counterargument/rebuttal specialists, and Academic Word List specialists.

In addition, you must use at least 10 words below from the Academic Word List (AWL):

acknowledge	clarify	emphasize	hence	major	paradigm	unique
argument	coherent	expose	highlight	minimal	predict	valid
aware	contrary	factor	identify	minor	rational	whereas
behalf	debate	focus	imply	nevertheless	reveal	
benefit	demonstrate	furthermore	infer	norm	significant	
bias	discriminate	generation	justify	obvious	specific	
challenge	element	guarantee	likewise	option	thesis	

APPENDIX B: Debate Rubric

Criteria	Points/Comments
<p>1. Opening statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One team member gave a clear overview of the team’s position • Good time management skills 	<p style="text-align: right;">_____ /10</p>
<p>2. Preparation (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team member contributed to their team’s preparation • The team prepared at least three clear supporting arguments • The team considered possible counterarguments • The team assigned roles effectively <p>3. Debate dynamics (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth transitions • Good time management skills • Each team member contributed to the debate • Team members made at least three clear arguments • Team members used the required number of words from the AWL wordbank 	<p style="text-align: right;">_____ /40</p>
<p>4. Closing statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One team member gave a clear summary of the team’s position (using different words from the opening statement) • Good time management skills 	<p style="text-align: right;">_____ /10</p>
<p>5. Evaluation of _____’s preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed to the team’s preparation • Contributed to the debate more than once • Spoke clearly with appropriate volume 	<p style="text-align: right;">_____ /15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Total _____ /75</p>	