

Name _____

Vow Debates

Debate Positions

Position 1

In today's world, vows—including priestly vows and marriage vows—should never be lifelong or permanent. (pro or con)

Position 2

Committing to a lifelong vow actually makes a person freer. (pro or con)

Position 3

Marriage vows do not need to be public. The commitment between the two people is what matters. (pro or con)

Directions

1. Circle the position your team has been assigned and circle whether you are arguing for the pro position (arguing for the position) or for the con position (against the position).
2. Identify which team member or members will play the following roles for the team:
 - **The stater:** This is the person responsible for stating the position taken by the group. The stater also summarizes the points to support the group's position at the end of the debate.
 - **The defender:** This person is responsible for citing research and making logical arguments gathered by the team.
 - **The challenger:** This person is responsible for asking probing questions of the opposing team.
3. You will have 15 minutes to prepare for your debate. During that time, you must develop an opening statement, form your arguments, discuss how you might challenge the opposing team's arguments, and decide what you want to emphasize in your closing statement. You will have limited time for research, but you may wish to quickly review the content in article 19 in the student book.

Debate Format

1. For the debate, each side will have 3–5 minutes to state their position (the stater), cite research, and make arguments (the defender) that support their position.
2. Each side will then have 3–5 minutes to challenge the opponent's arguments (the challenger).
3. Each side will then have up to 3 minutes to make a final statement.
4. Your teacher may allow a few minutes for the audience to ask questions and offer comments.
5. At the end of each debate, the audience will vote on the winning team.

