**[Lincoln Douglas Debate](http://www.wikihow.com/Construct-a-Lincoln-Douglas-Debate-Case)**

LD debate is value debate. Unlike Public Forum debate, LD debate is about whether we, as people, should "value" something, as opposed to "do" something. Because LD debate is not as evidence-intensive as public forum debate, you do not need so much numerical evidence, but you do need to make logical connections, examples, and definitions to back up each of your arguments.

LD Unit Learning Targets: Debate II students will…

* Deduce likely arguments that can be made on a topic, and deduce logical responses to those arguments
* Synthesize research from multiple perspectives to support arguments and responses on opposing sides of a topic
* Make intentional rhetorical choices across multiple debate formats to advocate a position

**Steps To Constructing Your Case:**

**I. Introduction**

1. Create an ATTENTION GETTER
   1. PATHOS is key in a value debate. To establish this early on, incorporate an anecdote, hypothetical scenario, fact, or quote to grab the judge and audience’s attention.
   2. Preview your Value and Criterion
   3. List your contentions.
2. Pick a VALUE
   1. The value of your argument is your end goal. You need to prove that the side you are arguing is the best option of achieving the value that you choose.
   2. The value is often the point of argument/contention in LD Debate as each side works to show that his/her value is more important than the other side’s value.
   3. Each side needs to choose a VALUE that they will uphold on their side of the debate.
   4. Types of values to choose from (but are not limited to):
      1. Universal Values-Things that are held as global and are cherished and respected worldwide
         1. Distributive Justice 4. Equality
         2. Peace 5. Humanitarianism
         3. Justice 6. Family
      2. Intrinsic Values-Values that are essential and needed for everyday life
         1. Justice 6. Privacy
         2. Freedom 7. Liberty
         3. Equality 8. Constitutional Law
         4. Family 9. Safety
         5. Globalism 10. Social Welfare
   5. Choose the value that’s best for your side of the resolution.
      1. Ex: “Resolved: A just society ought not use the death penalty as a form of punishment.” The value is justice because the resolution is attempting to define what justice looks like.
      2. Ex: “Resolved: Limiting economic inequality ought to be a more important social goal than maximizing economic freedom.” You might use the value of social welfare, because the resolution asks what a society should strive for.

* Values are ABSTRACT though, so you need something concrete, like a CRITERION, in order to prove your value’s importance.

1. Choose your CRITERION
   1. The CRITERION is how you propose your value will be achieved.
   2. For example, “there may be many ways to achieve justice, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is one way to achieve it.”
   3. Your criterion serves as a concrete way to achieve an abstract value.
      1. Ex: you can use "deontology" as a criterion for the value of justice because the *means* of achieving justice (i.e. carrying out the death penalty) is not moral, therefore it cannot be used to produce a positive end.
   4. Think of your value criterion as a way to achieve your value.
   5. Types of criterion to choose from (but are not limited to):
      1. **Utilitarianism** -Greatest good for the greatest number of people
      2. **Pragmatism or Teleology**-The end justifies the means (or no matter what you do to achieve an end it is justified)
      3. **Deontology**-The means justifies the end (opposite of teleology. If the means is not moral it should not be used to produce a positive end)
      4. **Consequentialism**-The consequences produced are either minor or major
      5. **Humanitarianism**- Respecting human rights and the well being of the majority of human beings
      6. **Autonomy** - Self-sufficiency and self-government are a means to achieve liberty

* Framework: Spend at least one whole paragraph explaining your value and how your criterion will achieve this value.

**II. Contentions**

1. “Contentions” is just a fancy word for main points.
   1. These points explain how your argument achieves your value/criterion.
   2. In LD there are normally 2-3 main arguments/contentions
   3. It helps to divide each contention up this way into the three parts:
      1. Claim (your main point: 1 sentence)
      2. Warrant (reasons that your claim is true: 2-3 sentences)
      3. Impact (why the claim and warrants matter in proving that your side can achieve your value: 2-3 sentences)

**III. Conclusion**

1. Summarize for the judge and audience WHY you should win this debate. You can do this through showing:
   1. Why the value you chose is the best/most important.
   2. How your contentions help achieve your value through your criterion.
   3. Pathos: appeal emotionally during your last statements.

**\*All cases must be turned in to turnitin.com to receive credit and to check for plagiarized material. Cases must be submitted before 11:59:59 the night before you are scheduled to debate in class. This deadline is non-negotiable and you will receive a significant point reduction if your case is not received by the deadline. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will need to make-up the assignment with a different resolution and will only receive up to 50% of the grade.**

**Order of LD Debate for Debate II:**

Affirmative Reads Case 4 minutes

Negative Questions Aff about their case 3 minutes

Negative Reads Case 4 minutes

Affirmative Questions Neg about their case 3 minutes

Both Prep time to prepare rebuttals 2 minutes

Affirmative Rebuttals Neg Case 3 minutes

Negative Rebuttals Aff Case 3 minutes

Both Open Rebuttal back and forth 3 minutes

Both Prep time to prepare crystallization 2 minutes

Affirmative Delivers Crystallization 1 minute

Negative Delivers Crystallization 1 minute

**Cross-Examination Questioning**

At the conclusion of the affirmative case, the negative debater (vice versa the second time) will directly question the affirmative for three minutes. This is only a one-way flow of questions; it is not a crossfire. The questioning debater should ask clarification questions, question the value/criterion chosen, and start discrediting the case via questions.

There are no boundaries on cross examination, short of abusing your opponent; any question

can and should be asked. In CX, the best debaters both chisel away at the flaws in

their opponent's case and set the framework for their own case.

**Rebuttals**

Rebuttals are used to directly attack your opponent’s case, while still upholding your own. You will want to be taking notes during your opponent’s case so that you can go back through and negate all of their contentions.

You will also want to discredit or trump their value/criterion while upholding yours.

**Crystallization**

Summarize for the judge and audience WHY you should win this debate. You can do this through:

* 1. Your Value/Criterion > Your opponents Value/Criterion
  2. Your contentions achieve your value/criterion better than your opponent achieves his/her value/criterion.
  3. Your emotional appeal and logic are more persuasive.