# First Negative Speaker

# **Template & Suggested Opening Lines**

*NOTE: You don’t have to use ALL of these, they are suggestions only.*

**Introduction**

This is optional, first affirmative speaker will have introduced the debate, but you can if you like.

* *Have you ever wondered/Imagine this/Did you know that/[any other opening hook]*
* *Good afternoon Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.*
* *The topic for our debate today is…*

**Accept or challenge Definition**

Can agree with the affirmative’s definition, OR redefine it.

* *Before we present our arguments, the negative team will contend the definition presented by the affirmative team.*
* *The opposition stated that…. We contend that instead, we should define the topic as…*
* *Our team accepts the definition of the topic described.*

**Rebuttal**

**NOTE: While you don’t know in advance what two points you will be rebutting, your team should have prepared a comprehensive list of possible arguments the other side will make and what you can say in response. You need to submit this along with your script.**

Refute the two points made by the speaker before you (the first affirmative speaker). State their point, explain why it’s wrong, say why your idea is better.

* *The first speaker for affirmative/the opposing team/the proposition put forward an argument that....*
* *This is incorrect because…. This is irrelevant because…*
* *Whilst our team does not doubt…. we would argue that*
* *Our position is that… this is clearly….*

**Team line**

Explain what your overall point is, what your team is going to argue. For the negative team, this will be NO you don’t agree with the motion, and why not

* *We the negative team believe that… [motion] is false because…*
* *Our team’s position today is that [motion] is incorrect, since….*

**Team split**

Give brief outline of what areas you will cover and what your second speaker will cover. You can also mention the 3rd speaker, although it’s not essential (they will always cover rebuttal and summary).

* *Today as first speaker I will be talking to you about…*
* *Our second speaker will cover….*
* *Our third speaker will rebut and sum up our team’s case.*

**Arguments**

Give two good reasons why you’re right. Use PEEL format – Point, Evidence, Elaborate, Link

* *My first point today is… Firstly… The first point I’d like to share with you….*
  + *Recent research showed… Statistically… An example of this is…*
  + *This proves…. From this it’s clear…*
  + *Which leads on to my next point…*
* *Secondly… Another key point to consider…. Now to my second point…..* 
  + *An example of this is… research has shown…. Statistics are clear…*
  + *From this it can be clearly seen…. This example serves as undeniable proof because…*
  + *These two points both support our team’s position on [topic]….*