Structuralist vs. Intentionalist Debate Nazi Foreign Policy

IB History

**Instructions:**

Working in your assigned teams you will attempt to support either Hitler as the master planner or the opportunist. The contention that is being debated is:

***Adolf Hitler was a master planner whose foreign policy actions from 1933-1939 were part of a preconceived scheme.***

For this debate we will be using the Lincoln Douglas Debate format but modified for time. Here is how it works:

The famed debates between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in the 1850s inspired the name and format for this style of debate.  L-D is a one-on-one debate, and as in team policy debate, the proposition and opposition teams are called the *Affirmative* (or *Aff*) and the *Negative* (or *Neg*), respectively.

**Format.**  A round of L-D debate consists of five speeches and two cross-examination periods.  The speeches and their times are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speech: | Affirmative Constructive  (Intentionalist) | Cross-Ex of Aff by Neg | Negative Constructive  (Structuralist) | Cross-Ex of Neg by Aff | Affirmative Rebuttal | Negative Rebuttal | Affirmative Rejoinder |
| Time: | 5 min. | 3min. | 6 min. | 3 min. | 4 min. | 6 min. | 3 min. |

Notice that the Affirmative has more speeches than the Negative, but both have the same total speaking time (15 minutes). There will be a 2-minute preparation time between each speech groups to confer before they speak. All members of the group must speak during the debate so it is recommended that the larger speeches be shared out between two speakers. While you are listening to whomever is speaking it is important that you take notes on what you are hearing and reserve all conversations for the preparation time.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Judges will be given the opportunity to pose 3 questions to each side. They will use these answers to help inform their verdict. Judges be expected to provide a 5 minute brief explaining how they reached their verdict.

**Assigned Sections and Group Planning**

**Affirmative: Develop a compelling case to demonstrate the claim through specific arguments, supportive historiography and effective responses to questions posed.**

**Negative: Develop a strong critique of the affirmative position and demonstrate why it is incorrect to view Hitler’s foreign policy as a master plan.**

**Judges: Develop a rubric for evaluating the arguments for both sides and be prepared to ask three questions of each side that will help to inform your verdict.**