

Judging Big Questions

Resolved: Creativity is a more powerful force than intelligence.

Prior to hearing these debates, I side with the _____ (Aff/Neg).

Make sure to recognize your personal bias and remove it from the evaluation of the round.

Your Role

There may be space for you to enter tournament information (date, location) and students' identifying codes at the top of the ballot. This can be done before the debate begins.

During the debate, a judge should keep track of the arguments being made. Organized notes of the important points you thought were raised during the round will help you complete your ballot and may help you make a decision about who was better at debating.

Students are allowed and encouraged to time themselves, but you may also choose to time various parts of the debate, particularly the Question Segments and each student's preparation time.

After the debate is over, complete the ballot by writing: 1) The best case you could make for why the affirmative won the debate you heard and any comments; 2) The best case you could make for why the negative won the debate you heard and any comments; 3) The reason the debater you chose to win did the better debating. Mark which side you picked to win!

After the tournament, complete the brief, online post-tournament survey by navigating to: www.speechanddebate.org/bqsurvey.

The Debate

Each round features two sides: one representing the affirmative and one representing the negative. Each side gives four speeches, and there are two periods of questions. Students will attempt to prove or disprove the statement: "Resolved: Creativity is a more powerful force than intelligence."

Affirmative Constructive – 5 minutes
Negative Constructive – 5 minutes
Question Segment – 3 minutes

Affirmative Rebuttal – 4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal – 4 minutes
Question Segment – 3 minutes

Affirmative Consolidation – 3 minutes
Negative Consolidation – 3 minutes

Affirmative Rationale – 3 minutes
Negative Rationale – 3 minutes

Each side has 3 minutes of preparation time during the debate, to be used in increments of their choice. For example, a student may elect to prepare for 1 minute for their rebuttal speech, 1 minute for their consolidation speech, and 1 minute for their final speech. Students may also prepare "for free" during each other's preparation time.

Topic Primer

This year's resolution asks us to quantify creativity and intelligence as forces and pit them against each other. To do so, it will be necessary to break down the different aspects and qualities of both intelligence and creativity, look at the different subsets of both, and apply real world psychology and philosophy to the resolution. Due to how these two concepts function as a pair together, it is necessary to consider this topic with a nuanced approach.

Creativity is the ability to produce new and original ideas, solutions, or works of art through imaginative thinking. It involves seeing connections between seemingly unrelated concepts, thinking outside conventional boundaries, and approaching problems or situations in unique ways. Intelligence is defined as the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. It involves a combination of cognitive abilities that enable individuals to navigate and make sense of the world around them.

Affirmative debaters may state that creativity is a more powerful force than intelligence because it drives innovation and progress, fosters adaptability in a rapidly changing world, and enhances problem-solving and critical thinking skills. While intelligence is undoubtedly valuable, it is the creative application of knowledge that leads to groundbreaking advancements and solutions. By embracing creativity, individuals and societies can navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve extraordinary outcomes. Therefore, we must recognize and nurture creativity as a vital force in shaping a better future.

Alternatively, negative debaters will defend that intelligence is a more powerful force than creativity because it provides the foundational knowledge necessary for creative ideas to be feasible and impactful, is essential for the systematic implementation and scalability of creative ideas and enables critical evaluation and refinement. While creativity is undoubtedly valuable, it is intelligence that ensures creative ideas are grounded, can be effectively executed, and are critically assessed. By recognizing the importance of intelligence, we can better harness the potential of creativity to achieve meaningful and sustainable progress. Therefore, intelligence should be seen as the more powerful force in driving human advancement.

Enter these debates with an open mind, and enjoy Big Questions!