



IDEA Challenge

On your way to the Global Debates grand prize, don't miss out on the IDEA Challenge, a special contest this fall. You could win participation fees for your team to attend the 2010 IDEA International Tournament of Champions at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, U.S., plus 500 points toward your Global Debates!

How many points can you earn?

This is a special contest with its own prize, but the top **10** entries will earn **500** bonus points for the Global Debates. Submit your best work – this is your chance to earn extra points and compete for a great prize.

What's the grand prize?

The top 2 entries will win the grand prize – participation in the 2010 IDEA International Tournament of Champions at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, U.S.! IDEA will award the two winning teams scholarships for participation fees, workshop fees, accommodations, and meals for the tournament, which takes place in late May or early June each year on the beautiful Willamette University campus. The 2 winning teams will also receive IDEA prize packages for up to 6 participating students and coaches.

What if you're on an international team that can't travel to the tournament?

You can still win! If your team wins the grand prize but can't travel to the U.S. for the International Tournament of Champions, IDEA will make a grant to your team to attend a tournament in your area.

What do you submit?

To enter the IDEA Challenge, submit 2 essays summarizing the best arguments and evidence you gathered for your public debate.

Essay #1 should summarize your team's best arguments for the proposition, the team arguing for the resolution.

Essay #2 should summarize your team's best arguments for the opposition, the team arguing against the resolution.

There is no minimum or maximum length; use the space you need to make your arguments fully but succinctly. Aim for 3-5 double-spaced pages for each essay.

Use this checklist!

IDEA Challenge Checklist

- Include the following information at the top of the first page:
 - Name of School
 - Names of students who prepared essay
 - Name of teacher/coach
 - Label the essay either "Essay #1" or "Essay #2"
 - Title (Please give your essay a unique title we can use to identify it.)
- List of references (Please include this list at the end of your essay)



What's the deadline?

To enter the IDEA Challenge, you must submit two essays with the required information to the UN Foundation by **Monday, November 16th**. Remember, you have until November 30th to hold your public debate. You can enter the Challenge before the debate or after, as long as the UNF receives your submission **by November 16th**.

When will we find out if our team won?

IDEA will announce the winners on Friday, **December 11th**. Grand prize winning essays will be featured in the next issue of Idebate Magazine and posted on idebate.org!

How will you judge our essays?

IDEA will evaluate your debate essays on the following criteria, all of which are equally important:

Quality of Research

Excellent essays will cite specific information related to the issues the team has chosen to focus on. Essays should demonstrate a basic grasp of climate change, poverty, and the ways the two problems overlap.

Focus

Essay #1 should propose a clearly defined plan for poverty reduction and explain why it should take priority over combating climate change. Essay #2 should respond to the specific arguments made in Essay #1.

Strength of Arguments

Strong essays will use sound reasoning and evidence.

Quality of Debate

Winning essays will sound like two sides of a single debate, not two different sets of arguments.

Start debating...and writing!

The great thing about the IDEA Challenge is that it can help you prepare for your public debate. If you write your essays as you work your way through the debate toolkit, you'll have practiced your debate on paper by the time you practice as a team. As you build debate cases, outline your key arguments. As you choose evidence to support your arguments, summarize that evidence in your outline. Pretty soon, you'll have a strong rough draft for each essay.

Use the IDEA Challenge Worksheet to capture the points you'll make in your public debate and your IDEA Challenge essays. The final format of the essays you submit is up to you – you do NOT need to submit a filled-out worksheet.



IDEA Challenge Worksheet

This worksheet is for your team to use in any way that helps you. Fill out the worksheet as you work your way through the debate toolkit and you'll capture the arguments for your public debate and your IDEA Challenge essays, all in one place. To enter the IDEA Challenge, you do **NOT** need to submit a filled-out worksheet. Refer to the **IDEA Challenge toolkit** (the first two pages of this document) for the rules of the contest.

ESSAY #1: The Proposition

1. Introduction: Why is this topic important? (1 paragraph)

Start your essay with a paragraph that explains why poverty and climate change are important issues. What are the problems that need to be solved, and why is it urgent to do so?

2. Propose a plan for reducing poverty (1-3 paragraphs).

Define the actor and action. What action should the United Nations take? Be specific: What's the goal? What are the targets, and when will they be reached? (Optional: How will your plan be funded? Enforced?)

3. Demonstrate that the UN cannot "do both." (1 paragraph)

You will probably want to define specific conditions, regions, or actions in which the UN cannot implement your plan while combating climate change.



4. Argue that the advantages of your plan outweigh the disadvantages of any negative effects on global climate change. (1-3 paragraphs per advantage)

What are the advantages of your plan compared to the status quo (the way things are right now)?

Advantage 1:

Evidence & examples:

Advantage 2:

Evidence & examples:

Advantage 3:

Evidence & examples:



5. Use values or principles to show why your plan for reducing poverty should take priority over combating global climate change. (1-3 paragraphs per principle)

Principles may include urgency, reparability, or magnitude.

Principle 1:

How does the principle apply in this case?

Principle 2:

How does the principle apply in this case?

6. Convince the judge! (1 paragraph)

Conclude with a summary of your best arguments.



ESSAY #2: The Opposition

1. Introduction: Why is this topic important? (1 paragraph)

As the opposition team, you don't deny that poverty and climate change are important issues; you simply look at them differently.

2. Summarize the arguments made in Essay #1 (1 paragraph)

Summarize the other team's case quickly; demonstrate that you understood the other team's arguments, and then move to your arguments.

3. Summarize your position for Essay #2 (1 paragraph)

Re-read the different strategies in Section IV of the Debate Toolkit, Creating a Case for the Opposition. Which strategy would work best to counter the arguments made in Essay #1? Explain how you'll use that strategy to argue against the plan and reasoning in Essay #1.

4. Apply the opposition strategy you've chosen (3+ paragraphs)

Use the ideas in Section IV of the Debate Toolkit, Creating a Case for the Opposition to make your case.

Strategy 1: Argue against the advantages of the proposition team's plan (1-3 paragraphs per advantage) *Choose one or more of the advantages described in Essay #1. Show that the proposition team's plan won't have the advantage(s) they say it will.*



Essay #1 Advantage 1:

Opposition response:

Essay #1 Advantage 2:

Opposition response:

Essay #1 Advantage 3:

Opposition response:



Strategy 2: Argue that the disadvantages of the plan outweigh the advantages. (1-3 paragraphs per disadvantage)

Name one or more disadvantages of the proposition's plan. Show that those disadvantages outweigh the advantages of the plan.

Disadvantage 1

Evidence and examples

Disadvantage 2

Evidence and examples

Disadvantage 3

Evidence and examples



Strategy 3: Argue that a general moral or ethical principle justifies assigning a higher priority to global climate change. (1-3 paragraphs per principle)

Principle 1:

How does the principle apply in this case?

Principle 2:

How does the principle apply in this case?

5. Convince the judge! (1 paragraph)

Conclude with a summary of your best arguments.