



# Rate the Debates Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the following components of debating, and judge the performance of each candidate. Use the criteria below to rate the performance of each candidate. In each box write a plus (+) or a minus (-) based on how well each candidate met the criteria. Be sure to include a short explanation of how you decided your rating.

**Arguments:** What kinds of supporting details does the candidate use? Does he rely on statistics and figures, or anecdotes and stories? How does the candidate support his argument?

**Delivery:** Does the candidate seem poised? Does he rely on more formal or less formal dialect? How does he try to connect with the viewing and listening audiences? Does he use humor, emotion, eye contact with the camera, movements or gestures?

**Staging:** Does the physical setting of the debate stage affect the outcome? Examine the details: the lighting, the stage, the podium, the colors? How are the candidates situated in relation to one another? in relation to the audience in the room? Do the candidates, themselves, have visual appeal? Where are the questioners positioned?

**Key Words or Phrases:** Does the candidate repeat key words or phrases? Does he have a clear message? Does he have a clear message? How well does he defend his position on an issue?

Debate Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Debate Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate #1	Candidate #2

Arguments

Delivery

Staging

Key Words or Phrases

On the back of this sheet, answer these questions:

1. What was your impression of the candidates after the debate?
2. Based on your impressions and the scoring in each category, who won the debate?  
Explain why.