**Setting Up Your Debate**

**The Responsibilities of the Affirmative:**

* Present a relevant argument
* To show that the way things are (the status quo) needs change
* To offer a proposal that will solve the problems of the status quo

**Responsibilities of the Negative:**

The best negative teams are able to conjur a wide range of arguments and test the affirmative proposal from a variety of perspectives.

Ways the Negative can attack the Affirmative:

* Show disadvantages
* Offer counter proposals that are better
* Critique the affirmative’s assumptions

**Asking questions that will lead you to good reasons**

Move through the following steps.

A. Definitions and examples that support them. Make sure to think through the terms. Is this debate about justice or freedom? Responsibility or Truth? Get to the heart of the debate.

B. Values and Morals: These are unifying points. What values are at stake? What can you get your audience to agree on? Get them to say yes, yes, from the beginning. Rhetorical questions do that very well.

C. Stakeholders: Who are the people who have an interest or something at risk

in this debate? Make sure to list them all. Sometimes you will discover a key point.

D. Consider arguments and counterarguments: Make sure to anticipate your opposition.

Don’t forget to assign parts: Who will be speaker 1 and 2?

**Mapping Your Points:**

**Make your arguments REAL—Reason, Evidence, Analysis, and Link**

Turn your points into paragraphs: