

Debate Watch Worksheet



You can evaluate and compare the strength of each candidate’s argument by following its path from premise to conclusion using the RSA Triangle (see back for more details).

Candidate	Criteria	Argument Topic	Argument Topic	Argument Topic	Argument Topic	Argument Topic	Argument Topic
	Premise						
	Conclusion						
	Assessment						
	Premise						
	Conclusion						
	Assessment						

The RSA triangle states that there are 3 criteria to evaluate a good argument:

1. The premise(s) of the argument must be **acceptable**—is the evidence of the argument socially accepted as true?
2. The premise(s) of the argument must be **relevant** to the conclusion—is there a logical connection within the argument?
3. The premise(s) must provide **sufficient** support for the argument’s conclusion—is there enough evidence to support the argument?

What is an argument? It is a group of statements including one or more premises and one and only one conclusion.

What is a premise? It is a socially accepted fact or value that provides the starting point for a potential conclusion. There can be one or many premises in a single argument.

What is a conclusion? It is a statement in an argument that indicates of what the arguer is trying to convince the reader/listener. What is the argument trying to prove? There can be only one conclusion in a single argument.

Directions:

1. Using the sheet, fill in the argument topic and the candidate making the argument.
2. Write down the premise(s) of the candidate’s argument.
3. Write down the conclusion of the candidate’s argument.
4. Repeat the steps for the other candidate for each topic.
5. Using the RSA Triangle, assess and compare the strength of each candidate's argument.

About the WA State Debate Coalition

The Washington State Debate Coalition was founded by Seattle CityClub in 2016 to enhance Washingtonians’ access to those who hold and seek our state’s highest elected offices. With 1,800 debate attendees and over 1 million viewers on TV/online in its inaugural year, the Coalition created a solution that tapped into a strong public desire across the state for direct access to candidates.