

## HOW TO PREPARE AN OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE DEBATE

Each side in a debate is called the “position.”

- 1) Your first line should state exactly who you are and what you are arguing: “I believe genetic modification is wrong.” or: “I believe genetic modification is a powerful scientific advancement that should be pursued.”
- 2) The rest of the statement needs to SUMMARIZE in PERSUASIVE LANGUAGE why your position is the strongest.
- 3) You don’t want to give too many details, but you should explain the 3 strongest points you want to make. You will have a chance during rebuttal to introduce more points.
- 4) Think of this opening statement like a story you are telling about why your argument is the most convincing. Consider using QUOTES that you think are emotionally powerful. You MUST appeal to people’s sense of REASON and EMOTION.
- 5) The opening statement should be around 1 page long, and should not take more than two minutes to read.
- 6) When you present your opening statement: speak slowly, clearly, loudly. Do NOT stumble over your words. You should know the writing well enough to feel CONFIDENT and COMFORTABLE as you present your position.