**Debate Opening Statement Format**

**Greet the audience, and the debate moderator, and acknowledge the other team, courteously (about 1 sentence). Engage the audience (hook), use hook strategies such as imaginary scenarios, shocking facts/statements/ questions, etc. (about 1-2 sentences). <Transition> Introduce issue and give background context of topic (about 3 sentences). <Transition> Use anecdotal examples or references to highlight why this topic is important or relevant (about 3-4 sentences). <Transition> State your position and why you have adopted that position—allude to some of your major arguments (about 2 sentences). Use SOME important FACTUAL information to support your position (about 3 sentences). <Transition> Acknowledge the other conflicting position, but in doing so demonstrate why the audience should adopt your position. <TRANSITION (VERY IMPORTANT)> Concluding thought/Thesis: Tie it all in and REMIND readers of your position and the THREE main arguments you will be making throughout the debate (about 1-2 sentences).**

\*Remember when delivering your hook, you should be enthusiastic and animated. You should speak fluently and articulately. Maintain eye contact\*