

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COLONY/SOCIAL GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

# DEBATE PLANNER

HISTORY UNIT A1: THE ROAD TO CONFEDERATION

## Debate Structure

Because there are so many colonies and groups with a stake in this debate, we will be using the following structure for our debate:

- 1) Each team presents their opening statement (**1 minute each**)
- 2) Each team presents their reasons for/ against Confederation (**4 minutes each**)
- 3) Open floor for rebuttals - each team gets one chance to **rebut** (argue against) another's reasoning for Confederation (**15 minutes total**)
- 4) Closing remarks for each team (**1 minute each**)

Each group member must participate in at least one of the four sections of the debate.

## An example of an opening statement:

Standing alone, the colonies of British North America risk invasion from the Americans, the threat of the Irish Fenians, and the loss of their personal liberties. Joined together, they become a powerful force.

**Britain is in favour of Confederation.** It will allow the colonies to protect themselves from outside threats and to become increasingly independent; it will free Britain from the time-consuming and expensive micro-management of the Canadian government; and it will create strong trading networks within the country as well as a strong trading partner for Britain. The joining of the separate colonies of British North America is of benefit to Britain and Canada alike. We are excited to see it come to fruition.

Your Opening Statement Must Have:

- A powerful hook to catch your audiences attention
- A statement in which you clearly identify your position in the debate.
- An overview of the **3 arguments** you will present for or against Confederation
- A powerful concluding statement that summarizes your position in a different or interesting way

## An example of a closing statement:

The Confederation of Canada would create a strong, united national force that would be responsible for its own government, protection and trade networks. The potential benefits to Canadian society and the world are unprecedented. It shall be a dominion from sea to sea, protecting its borders from American threats and stretching up to the farthest frozen reaches of man's hand. It will be magnificent.

A Closing Statement Should:

- Summarize your main points and arguments
- Connect your debate position to the bigger picture (benefit to society? The world? The biggest costs?)
- A powerful impact statement to leave your audience thinking

**Your opening statement (1 minute):**

**Powerful Hook:**

**Statement in which you clearly identify your position:**

**Summary of three main arguments:**

**Powerful conclusion:**

**3 arguments (4 minutes):**

ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST CONFEDERATION	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	POSSIBLE COUNTERARGUMENTS

# Rebuttals

POSSIBLE ARGUMENTS OF OTHER GROUPS FOR OR AGAINST CONFEDERATION	MY COUNTERARGUMENTS/ REBUTTALS

**Your closing statement (1 minute):**

**Summary Statement:**

**Connect your debate position to the bigger picture:**

**Powerful impact statement:**