
Cooperation and Adversariality in Contest Debates

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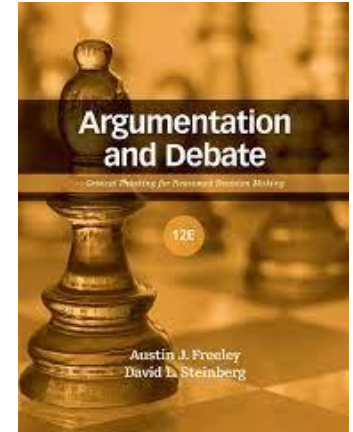


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1. What is debate?

“The process of inquiry and advocacy; the seeking of a reasoned judgment on a proposition” (Freely and Steinberg 2009)

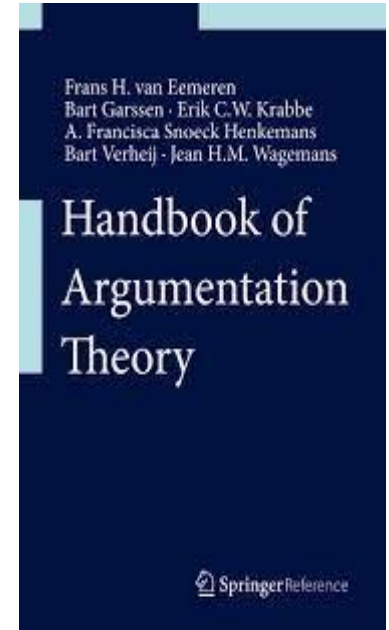
“The real goal of each participant [in debate] is to persuade some third party (usually an audience or a designated referee) by arguments that can be persuasive without necessarily being very rational” (Krabbe 1992)



2. Debate as procedural rationality

Recovery and Reconstruction of Principles of Academic Debate as Dialectical Model: An Outline of a Procedural Model of Argumentative Rationality (Jacobs 2020)

“...debate as a source of argumentation theory has gone largely unnoticed”





Debate is not cooperative

“The model of debate, however, is distinctively American. It is adversarial, not cooperative in the sense of a discussion”

“Winning and not reconciliation may be the motive of the parties, but neither is the design function of the activity”

“Truth-testing is the function”

(Jacobs 2020)



3. Outline

- **Debate and Argumentation Theory**
 - Debate research and argumentation theory
 - Different debate models
- **Cooperation and Adversariality**
 - Cooperation (Novaes) and Adversariality (Stevens and Cohen)
 - Debate as cooperative and adversarial
 - Debate model design and its results
- **Conclusion**

4. Different Debate Models

There are many:

- American Policy
- British Parliamentary
- Lincoln-Douglas
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- Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl
- Munazara Model (coming soon)

5. Research Questions

- ➔ Does variation in model design yield differences in procedural rationality?
- ➔ How do different debate models shape cooperation and adversariality?

6. Research on Different Debate Models

- Almost nonexistent nowadays (**Jodoi 2023**)
- Comparisons between Policy Debate and American Parliamentary in 1920's (**Baird 1923; 1950; Howes 1925; 1928; Freeth&Cradock 1947**)
- Some comparisons between different Policy Debate formats (**Colbert 1987**)
- Rise of British Parliamentary Model in US (**Snider 2010**)

7. Different positions on debate procedure

For more:
(Üzelgün, Oruç et. al, 2023)

Model	BP	Lincoln-Douglas	Policy	Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl
Individual / Team	Team	Individual	Team	Team
Number of Teams	4	2	2	2
N Team Members	2	1	2	3-5
Motion Type	Principle, Policy	Value	Policy	Ethical issues
Motion Announcement	Impromptu, changes every round	Every two months	One motion for the season	2 months, 2 motions for each round
One to one dialogue	Only through "PoI"	Cross-examination	Cross-examination	"Commentary" after "presentation"
Judge's role	Rank debaters	Decide the winner	Decide the winner	Decide the winner

8. Types of Cooperation- Noveas(2021)

Joint cooperation (J-cooperation):

A and B pursue a common interest which is best (or only) achieved by means of joint action. One might then say that Ia and Ib in fact form a new unit C and pursue C together

Altruistic cooperation (A-cooperation):

A and B have conflicting interests, but A actively promotes B's interest, despite it not being for her own individual benefit

Egoistic cooperation (E-cooperation):

A's and B's interests are so aligned that each can pursue their own while still collaborating

9. Types of cooperation

Model	BP	Lincoln-Douglas	Policy	Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl
Individual / Team	Team	Individual	Team	Team
Number of Teams	4	2	2	2
N Team Members	2	1	2	3-5
Cooperation-Type	J-Cooperation between Gov and Opp E-Cooperation within Gov/Opp members	J-Cooperation between Proposition and Opposition	J-Cooperation between Affirmative and Negative E-Cooperation within Aff/Neg members	A-Cooperation presenting and commenting team

10. Types of Adversariality- Stevens and Cohen(2020)

Adversarial Attitude

Arguing to win

Victory no matter what

Personal gain

Adversarial Stance

Opponent-Proponent

Negative-Affirmative

Opposition-Government

Adversarial Function

Arguments being pro/con

Adversarial-Persuasive Effect

Arguments changing minds, often involuntarily

11. Types of Adversariality

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Type of Adversariality	Adversarial Stance	Adversarial-function	Adversarial-function	Only adversarial-persuasive effect is allowed

12. Fallacies of Debate?

→ **Knifing**

Occurs in British
Parliamentary

→ **Sandbagging**

Occurs in Policy and L-D

Conclusion

→ **Limitation**

Cooperation distinctions centered upon conflict do not sit well with debate

→ **Questions**

The relationship between rationality, cooperation and adversariality

→ **Further studies**

- Identifying “debate fallacies”
- Examining other design choices (preparation time, motion announcement, etc) and their implications

Thank you.

