



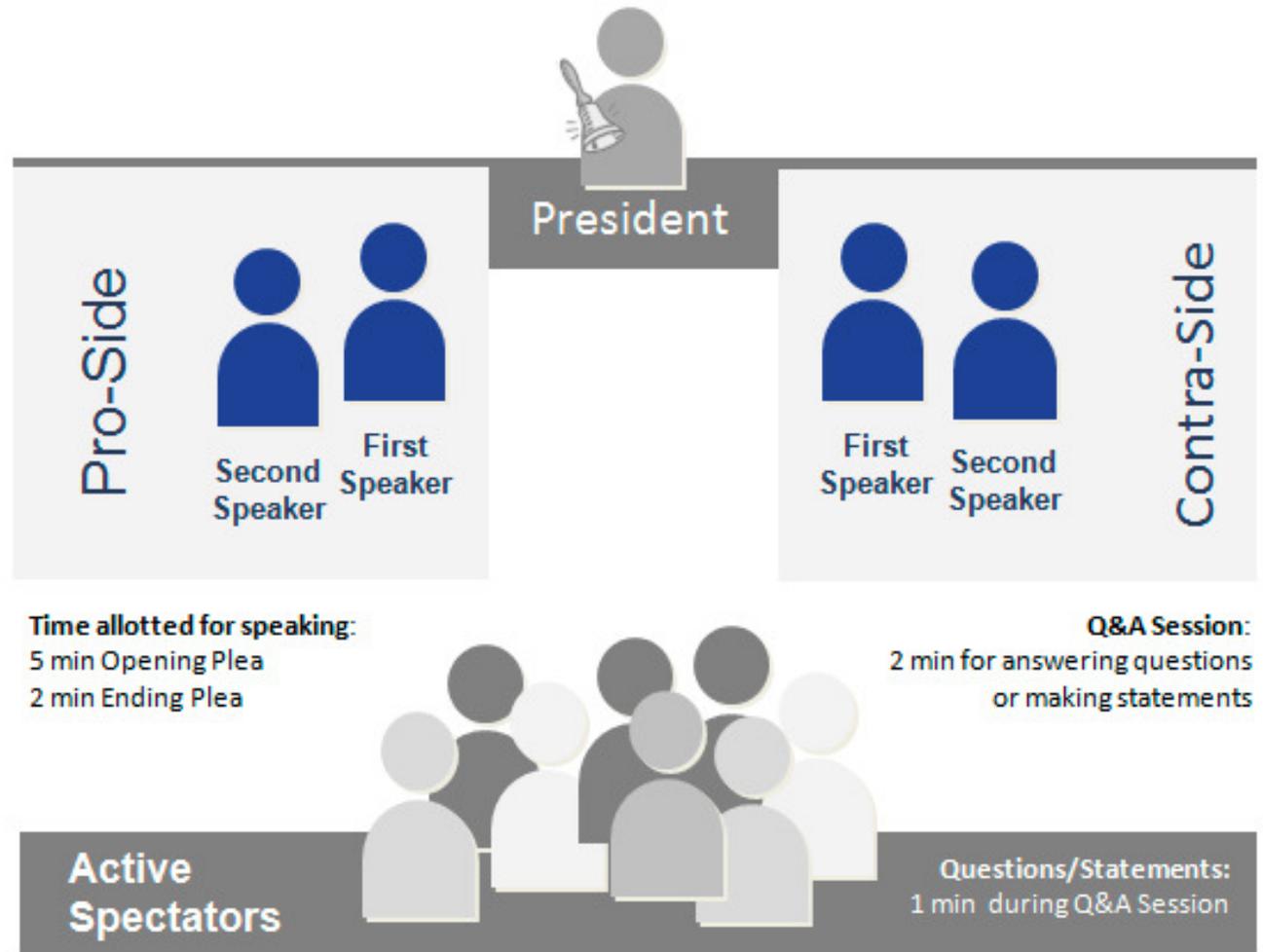
## Rules of debate

The “**European Debates**” (or “**Klartext Europa**” debates in German-speaking countries) are held in the Oxford-Style of a public debate. They concentrate on a vital interchange between the stage speakers and the audience, the active spectators. This allows a critical proof of the arguments on the pro- and contra-sides of the motion in question. Due to clear positions and allotted times the debaters need to be clear and precise in their argumentation. The debate is chaired by a president and pivots on a question, which can be answered by a definite “Yes” or “No”. Two debaters represent the pro-position and two the contra-position. Both sides are trying to win the support of the active spectators.

### Procedure of the debate

In the beginning, the speakers of both sides have 5 minutes each for an **Initial Plea** to introduce first arguments and to respond to the points of their opposite side.

After that the **Q&A Session** begins, in which the president of the debate keeps a list of speakers. The active spectators are supposed to address the points the debaters made, using 1 minute statements or questions. The debaters have 2 minutes to answer a question, but are also allowed to get on the list of speakers in order to give a **2 minutes statement** or ask their opposite side questions.



After 40 to 60 minutes the president is closing the list of speakers and turns the floor over to the debaters for **Ending Pleas** of 2 minutes each.

### Outcome of the debate

The aim of the “**European Debates**” is the development and examination of different opinions regarding the issue. That side, which is able to convince the active spectators the most, is winning the debate.

To decide that, the active spectators will have a **secret vote before the debate starts** about how they would answer the debates’ question (Yes/No/Undecided). **After the debate** there will be an **open vote**, where they will be asked how they would answer that question now (Yes/No). The side which gains more votes wins the debate.

[Any questions? Ask](#)

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