

Sample Debate Planning Sheet for Alternate Prompt

Position (underline your team's assigned position)

- Proponents: Couples should know one another for at least one year before they marry.
- Opponents: Couples do not need to know one another for at least one year before they marry.

A. Opening Statement

- Hook:
- Introductory Information:
- Position Statement: The play *Romeo and Juliet* highlights that a couple should know one another for at least one year because an extended courtship for Romeo and Juliet could have prevented anxiety, shallowness, and secrets in their lives.

B. Arguments

Argument #1:

To reduce anxiety

Supporting Evidence:

- Q: JULIET: It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden, / Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be / Ere one can say "It lightens."
(1.5.125–127)
- P: If my nurse had my feelings and my youth, she'd be as quick as a moving ball. My message would hit her to my sweet love, Romeo, and his message would send her back to me. But many old people act like they are already dead (2.5.12–16)
- S: Juliet anxiously waits for her nurse to find out if Romeo truly wants to marry her (2.5.49–70)

Argument #2:

To form a deep connection

Supporting Evidence:

- P: ROMEO: If the most beautiful stars in the sky were busy, they would ask Juliet's eyes to twinkle in their place until they returned (2.2.16–18)
- S: Romeo frequently focuses on Juliet's physical attributes. He describes Juliet as a "fair maid" (2.2.66) and her voice as the "sofetest music" (2.2.176–177)
- Q: JULIET: Give me my Romeo, and when I shall die, / Take him and cut him out in little stars, / And he will make the face of heaven so fine / That all the world will be in love with night. (4.2.24–26)

Argument #3: To avoid secrets that lead to deadly consequences	Supporting Evidence: ● P: How is Tybalt alive and victorious while Mercutio has been killed? My mercy is gone, and I will act with fury. Tybalt, take back that you just called me a villain. Mercutio's soul has just left us, and it's waiting for your soul to keep him company. Either you, or me, or both of us, will join his soul. (3.1.127–134) ● S: Lord Capulet tells Juliet that she will go to church and marry Paris on Thursday, or she will be cast from his house. He will never look or speak to her again (3.5.166–169) ● Q: ROMEO: Here's to my love. "Drinking." O true apothecary, / Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die. (5.3.120–121)
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C: Rebuttal Section	
Rebuttal #1 ● Claim: Romeo and Juliet's love is so strong. ● Counterclaim: A longer courtship would have given Romeo and Juliet more time to figure out a way to marry without lying to their families.	Supporting Evidence: ● S: Juliet repeatedly lies to her family, such as ● In Act 4, Scene 2, she cannot tell her parents why she cannot marry Paris. She has to lie and agree to marry Paris, and then pretend to go to confession to get help from Friar Laurence. She lies again when she takes the sleeping potion in Act 4, Scene 4 ● S: Tybalt, upset that Romeo came to the Capulet party and unaware of his marriage to Juliet, challenges Romeo to a duel (3.1.67–68)
Rebuttal #2 ● Claim: The feud leads to the deaths of loved ones in the play, not the rushed marriage. ● Counterclaim: The feud would not have led to Romeo and Juliet in the Capulet tomb.	Supporting Evidence: ● P: PRINCE: Three fights have broken out amongst my citizens because of words exchanged between the Capulets and Montagues. Three times you have disturbed the quiet streets of Verona and caused the elderly of Verona to get their old weapons to break up your fights (1.1.91–97) ● S: Deaths begin in the play after Romeo and Juliet's marriage. In Act 3, Scene 1, Mercutio and Tybalt die. In Act 5, Scene 3, Paris, Romeo, and Juliet die due to the secret marriage, not because of the feud.
Rebuttal #3 ● Claim: Romeo and Juliet's marriage was fated by the stars. ● Counterclaim: Romeo and Juliet married of their own free will.	Supporting Evidence: ● Q: JULIET: If that thy bent of love be honorable, / Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow, / By one that I'll procure to come to thee, / Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite (2.2.150–153). ● S: Friar Laurence agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet in hopes that it will end the Capulet and Montague feud (2.3.97–99)

D: Closing Statement:

- **B**ack to Position Statement:
- **A**nalyze its significance:
- Restate Rebuttals:
- **M**ake it Universal: