



DEBATE GUIDE



*Version 2
2022-2023*

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

What is the debate?3

Types of debate **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Importance of debate.....3

Structure of debate3

Rules of debate.....4

Roles of Each Speaker respectively4

Who wins?6

Debating Tips and Techniques.....6

What is the debate?

A debate is a discussion or structured contest about an issue or a resolution. A formal debate involves two sides: one supporting a resolution and one opposing it. Such a debate is bound by rules previously agreed upon. Debates may be judged in order to declare a winning side.

Importance of debate:

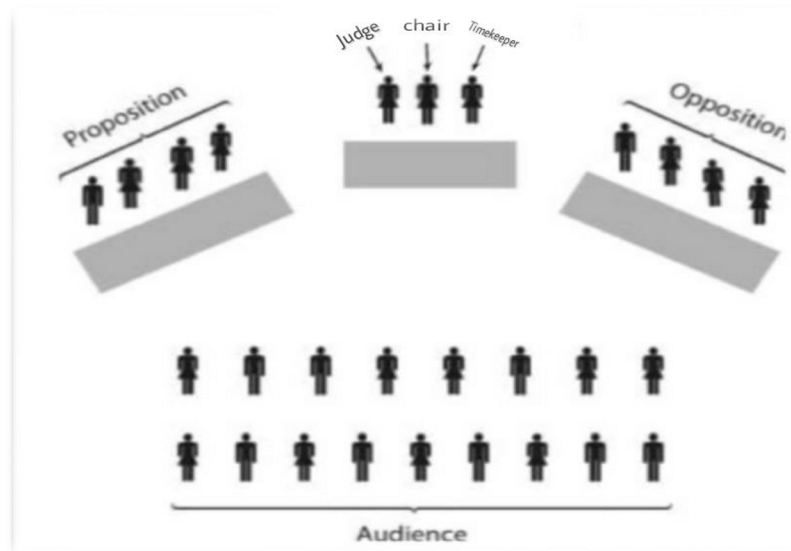
- Improve student's confidence level to speak in public.
- How to respect different opinions.
- Teach students how to create a persuasive argument.
- Improve critical thinking, researching, and presentation skills.
- Improve self-discipline.
- Help students to improve their intellectual, scientific, cultural and social skills.

Structure of debate:

- Debate topic: can be a statement, policy or idea.
- Debaters: Divided into two teams (Proposition and Opposition) and each team involves 4 speakers.
- The Judgment committee consists of (*Chair(tutor), Timekeeper (tutor) & Judge (an academic staff)*)
- *Chair*: who starts the debate session and gives an introduction that includes the objectives of the debate, introduces the four speakers of each team (the proposition and the opposition teams) at the debate session. Then he/she manages and facilitates the session. Also, chair should mention clearly what should each team (opposition or proposition) do to win with the debate.
- *Timekeeper*: Responsible for tracking the time of each speaker and signaling the beginning and end of the protected time.
- *Judge*: to judge each speaker and how well they represent their speech based on specific criteria and announce the winner.

(The specific criteria include (Body language, the tone of the speaker, eye contact, strength and structure of the argument being presented, and presentation skills))

- Audience members: The audiences are not allowed to participate in the discussion BUT they have to vote before and after the debate.



Rules of debate:

- Each speaker typically speaks for 5 minutes, with the timekeeper indicating the end of the allotted time with a gavel.
- Points of information can be raised by opposing teams during the speeches of their opposition, but these are prohibited during the ‘protected’ first and last minute of a speech. They can also be rejected by the speaker at any time, and may be disallowed by the chair if they express personal opinions.

Roles of Each Speaker respectively:

- The first speaker from the proposition team is called the *prime minister* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience.
 - A brief introduction that includes the objectives of the debate
 - View the team chart.
 - Present their first argument.
 - Conclusion and reminder of the objectives.
- The first speaker of the opposition team is called the *Leader of the Opposition* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:

- Welcoming attendance.
- Refuting the arguments of the first speaker of the proposition team.
- View the team chart.
- Present their first argument.
- Conclusion and reminder of the objectives.
- The second speaker from the proposition team is called *the Deputy Prime Minister* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience.
 - Refute the opposing team's arguments.
 - Present the argument.
 - Conclusion and reminder of the goal.
- The second speaker from the opposition team is called *the deputy leader of the opposition* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience.
 - Refute the opposing team's arguments.
 - Present the argument.
 - Conclusion and reminder of the objectives.
- The third speaker from the proposition team *member of the proposition* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience
 - Refute the opposing team's arguments.
 - Present the argument.
 - Conclusion and reminder of the objectives.
- The third speaker from the opposition team is called *the member of the opposition* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience.
 - Refute the opposing team's arguments.
 - Present the argument.
 - Conclusion and reminder of the objectives.
- The fourth speaker from the proposition team is called *the active member* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience
 - Summarizing the arguments of the two teams (in favor of the proposition)

- Strength points of proposition speakers and weakness points of opposition speakers
- Conclusion and link to objectives
- The fourth speaker from the opposition team is called *the active opposition member* and includes the following tasks assigned to him:
 - Welcoming the audience
 - Summarizing the arguments of the two parties (in favor of the opposition)
 - Strength points of opposition speakers and weakness points proposition speakers
 - Conclusion and link to objectives

Who wins?

1. The chair, timekeeper, and the judge meet between them take the average of evaluation (count 20% of total voting).
2. The audiences vote at the end of the debate (80% of voting).
3. The judge will announce the winning team in the end of the debate.

Debating Tips and Techniques:

- Preparation of your topic.
- Stay on topic.
- Speak slowly, clearly, and charismatically.
- Be confident with your topic.
- Think about your body language and what it's saying to your audience.
- Listen and take notes.
- Anticipate your opponent's questions before they're uttered.
- Tell a story or give an illustration with an example to make your point.
- Use a strong conclusion.

Note: Adapted form British Parliament.

