

Unit 7 -
English
Debate

What is Debating?



- A debate is a structured ARGUMENT. Two sides speak alternately for and against a particular contention usually based on a topical issue and speak in a designated time.

Why debate?

- To improve the speaking skills, in any language
- To know how to convince people
- To open mind for the new ideas
- To.....

The Basic Debating Skills

Style	Speed	Tone	Volume	Clarity	Used of notes and eye contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast enough to sound confident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various tones make your debate more interesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure that audience can hear your voice well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear cut in a topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes (script) are allowed but make it short so you can keep eye contact to audiences while debating

Content

- Content is what you actually say in the debate (depends on debate topics).
- The arguments used to develop your own side's case and rebut the opposite side's.
- The information on content provided below is a general overview of what will be expected when you debate.

(The final logistics of how long you will be debating, how many people will be in your group, and how the debate will unfold (ie: which team speaks first etc.), will all be decided by your tutorial leader.)

Case (argument)- the whole

Introduction:

- should be outlined
- stating main arguments and explaining the general idea of your team
- should be done briefly

Conclusion:

- summarize what members in the group shared

Case (argument)- the parts

- To divide the arguments into between two and four or divide into the number of member in your group
- To justify (to proof) the arguments with logic, examples, statistics, and quotes.
- To find evidence to support your argument
- Put the most important argument first
- Example

“Studying online has been influenced over the students and educators for a couple of reasons. Firstly, learners can enjoy learning anytime and anywhere. Secondly, there is no charge of commute . Thirdly, online study can be accessible to any group of people age.”

Rebuttal – the parts

- Arguments can be factually, morally or logically flawed. They may be misinterpretations or they may also be unimportant or irrelevant.
- A team may also contradict one another or fail to complete the tasks they set themselves. These are the basics of rebuttal and almost every argument can be found wanting in at least one of these respects.

Rebuttal ~ the whole:

- It is very important to have a good perspective of the debate and to identify what the key arguments are. It isn't enough to rebut a few random arguments here and there. Of course the techniques used above are invaluable but they must be used appropriately. There are a number of things you should do to systematically break down a team's case:

Rebuttal ~ the whole: (cont)

1. Ask yourself how the other side have approached the case. Is their methodology flawed?
2. Consider what tasks the other side set themselves (if any) and whether they have in fact addressed these.
3. Consider what the general emphasis of the case is and what assumptions it makes. Try to refute these.
4. Take the main arguments and do the same thing. It is not worth repeating a point of rebuttal that has been used by someone else already, but you can refer to it to show that the argument has not stood up. It is not necessary to correct every example used. You won't have time and your aim is to show the other side's case to be flawed in the key areas.

Debate Structure

(1) 1st Proposition

opening, definition, teamline, own arguments

(3) 2nd Proposition

rebuttal of 1st Opp., rebuild own case, own arguments

(5) 3rd Proposition

general rebuttal, rebuild own case

(8) Proposition Reply (1st or 2nd speaker)

biased summary

(2) 1st Opposition

accepting definition / redefinition, teamline, rebuttal of 1st Proposition, own arguments

(4) 2nd Opposition

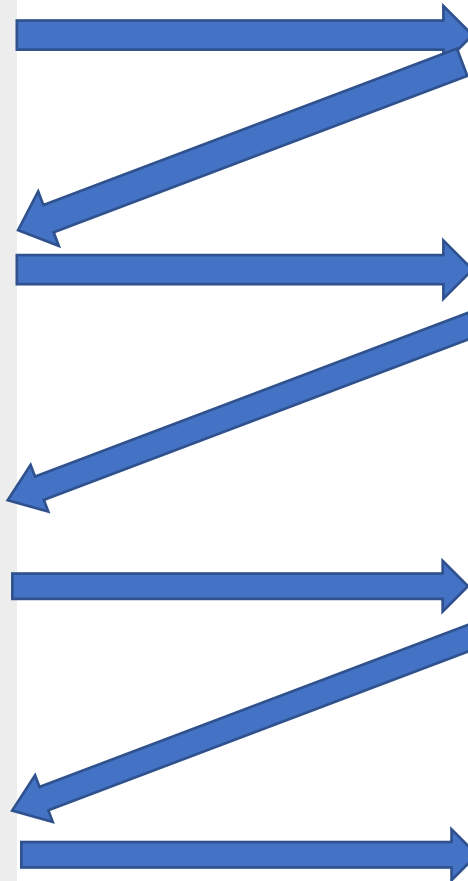
rebuttal of 2nd Prop., rebuild own case, own arguments

(6) 3rd Opposition

general rebuttal, rebuild own case

(7) Opposition Reply (1st or 2nd speaker)

biased summary



Useful Phrases for Discussion and Debate

Formal Section Phrases

Opening the debate:

- [some nice opening, e.g. quote]
- Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this debate.
- Welcome from this side of the house...
- The motion for debate today is: ...

defining the motion:

- Now we as today's proposition/opposition strongly believe that this is true/not true, but before we come to our actual argumentation, let us first define some important terms in this debate.
- We believe that what is meant by ... is... / that ... are ...
- When we say ... should ... we mean that ...

presenting the team-line:

- We as today's proposition/opposition have structured our case as follows:
- I, as the first speaker, will be talking about ...
- Our second speaker, ..., will elaborate on the fact that ...
- And our third speaker, ..., will do the rebuttal.

rebutting arguments, rebuilding your case:

- But before I come to my own arguments, let us first have a look at what ... has said.
- I will continue our case in a minute, but before that there are some things about the ... speech that need to be addressed.
- The first prop/opposition speaker has told us ...; on the contrary ...
- He/She also said that ...; but in fact..
- He/She was claiming that ...; but as my first speaker already told you,

introducing arguments:

- Let me come to my first/second/.../next argument:
[concise label of argument]
- My first/... argument is:
- The first/... reason why we're prop/opposing this motion is:
explaining arguments:
- [rather abstract explanation on how the argument should work]

giving examples:

- There are many examples for this/for ..., for instance.
- In fact, you can find many examples for this in real life. Just think of...
- And there are similar cases, such as ..., ...
- So in this simple example we can clearly see the effect of ...

summarizing & linking the argument:

- So as we have seen [argument label], and therefore [motion].
- Now because of this ..., we have to support this motion.

summarizing & ending your speech:

- So Ladies and Gentlemen, what have I told you today? Firstly ..., Secondly..
[some nice closing words]
- And for all of these reasons, the motion must stand/fall.
making/rejecting/accepting/answering points of information:
- Point of information, Sir/Madam.
- On that point.
- Wouldn't you have to agree ...? / Doesn't what you're saying contradict with ...? / What about the ...? / How would you explain, that ... ?
- No, thank you, Sir/Madam.
- Declined.
- Yes, please. / Go ahead.
- Thank you very much, Sir/Madam, I'm going to come to this very point in my second argument in a minute.

giving reply speeches:

- “Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome for the last time from today’s prop/opposition. It is now my pleasure to summarize this debate, take a look at what both sides have said and see what the outcome of this debate actually is.”
- A first/second/... major clash was: ... Today's prop/opposition told us ...; we had to find ...[some particularly nice closing words]
- And for all these reasons, I beg you to prop/oppose

Informal Debate Phrases

When you are listening to the other side.

- I see your point, but I think...
- Yes, I understand, but my opinion is that...
- That's all very interesting, but the problem is that...
- I'm afraid I can't quite agree with your point.-
- I think I've got your point, now let me respond to it.-
- We can see what you're saying. Here's my reply...

When you need to say something now.

- I'm sorry to interrupt, but you've misunderstood our point.-
- Excuse me, but that's not quite correct.-
- Sorry, I just have to disagree with your point.-
- Let me just respond to that, please.-
- Forgive me for interrupting, but I must respond to that.-
- Hold on a moment, that's not correct.-
- If you would allow me to add a comment here...-
- If you don't mind, I'd like to take issue with what you just said.

When you haven't replied yet.

- The other side will have to explain why.... otherwise we win that point.-
- We said that...but the other side has not replied to our point.-
- I'd like to focus on two points that the other side has failed to address.-
- There are two points that we have succeeded in establishing...
- I want to call your attention to an important point that our opponents have not addressed yet.-
- I'd like to point out that there are two issues our opponents have failed to dispute, namely...
- I must stress again that our point has not been refuted by the other side.

When you give your rebuttal.

- The first point I would like to raise is this...
- Our position is the following...
- Here's the main point I want to raise...
- I'd like to deal with two points here. The first is...
- Our opponents have still not addressed the question we raised a moment ago...
- The other side has failed to answer our point about...
- Notice that the affirmative side has not addressed our main point.-
- Let me just restate my position.-
- Just to be clear, here is what I mean...

When you give concluding statements.

- To sum up, here are the main points our opponents have not addressed...
- We pointed out that...
- Our opponents have claimed that...
- To recap the main points...
- Let's sum up where we stand in this debate.
- Let me summarize our position in this debate.
- In summary, we want to point out that...
- Let's see which arguments are still standing.-
- Let's take stock of where we are in this debate.