



The Great Debate

How to prepare a debate

1. Present your team's arguments for or against the topic.
2. Listen to the other team's arguments and then oppose them.

Participants in the debate

Chairperson

- Welcomes the teams, introduces the topic, the speaker and the adjudicator, offers congratulations and thanks everyone for attending.

Timekeeper

- Assists the chairperson in making sure everyone has exactly the correct amount of time to argue their point.

Adjudicator

- These people judge the outcome of the debate. They usually offer support, praise and advice to each speaker.

The teams

- The affirmative team is the team to support the view expressed in the debate topic.
- The negative team will challenge the view.
- Each team must try to persuade the audience to their point of view.

Affirmative team

First speaker

1. Presents the topic.
2. Defines the topic.
3. Says what each speaker will do.
4. Introduces their team's arguments.

Second speaker

1. Points out the weaknesses of the first speaker for the negative.
2. Supports the affirmative team's arguments with supporting examples.

Third speaker

1. Points out the weaknesses of the negative team's arguments and views.
2. Sums up the affirmative team's arguments.

Negative team

First speaker

1. Defines the topic.
2. Says how their team will negate the topic.
3. Introduces their team's arguments.
4. Points out the weaknesses in the affirmative's definition of the topic.

Second speaker

1. Points out the weaknesses of the second speaker for the affirmative.
2. Supports the negative team's arguments with supporting examples.

Third speaker

1. Points out the weaknesses of the affirmative team's arguments and views.
2. Sums up the negative team's arguments.

Activity

- Write down three points to support your team's arguments.
- Choose one point and expand on it.
- Write three arguments which might be raised by the opposing team and then write rebuttals for those arguments.
- Suggest a conclusion to support your team.