

WE DEBATE

ENGLISH TRAINING



WHAT IS DEBATING?

We live in a world where we communicate with others all the time. Debating is a more formal way of communicating. It builds confidence and self esteem in people.

If we can speak publicly and convey our ideas and thoughts coherently and passionately, we have a valuable tool that can aid us in our public, private and future lives.

Rules

A debate has two teams: an Affirmative and a Negative. Each side consists of three speakers. The First Affirmative speaker begins the debate, and is then followed by the First Negative speaker. This pattern is maintained for the second and third speakers of each team. Each speaker speaks for a set time, with a warning bell, to give them a little time to sum up and finish, then a final bell.

Each speaker has certain 'duties' to attend to as they speak (see 'Duties of Speakers').

First speaker, affirmative team

Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... *(Insert the topic of the debate.)*'

Definition

- 1 We, the affirmative team, define the topic as (Explain what the topic means. Define the key or important words in the topic. Use a dictionary to help you. You should make sure that the topic is clearly explained in a sentence or two.)
- 2 We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.

TEAM - LINE

Simply, a team line is a general statement of what your team is arguing in the debate. Often, it is as simple as saying, "Tonight, the Affirmative team believes that..." or saying "the Negative team will prove to you tonight that...." All of the arguments that you make should be consistent with the team line.

Team split

- 1 Today as first speaker, I will be talking to you about *(Insert the general heading/s of the points you will be talking about.)*
- 2 Our second speaker will be talking about *(Insert the headings of the points your second speaker will be talking about.)*
- 3 Our third speaker will rebut the negative team and sum up our team case.

Rebuttal

There is no rebuttal for the first affirmative speaker.

Arguments

- 1 I am going to discuss *(insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points)* points.
- 2 My first point is *(Insert your first point/argument.)* This is because/the reason for this is *(Explain the reason that supports your point.)*
- 3 Now to my second point *(Insert your second point.)*
- 4 This is because *(Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*
- 5 *(If you have some more points, insert them here in a similar manner.)*

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)

First speaker, negative team

Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'
- 3 We **agree** with the definition given by the affirmative team.
OR
We **disagree** with the definition given by the opposition. (If you disagree explain why the opposition's definition is wrong.)
- 4 However we, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.

TEAM - LINE

Simply, a team line is a general statement of what your team is arguing in the debate. Often, it is as simple as saying, "Tonight, the Affirmative team believes that..." or saying "the Negative team will prove to you tonight that..." All of the arguments that you make should be consistent with the team line.

Team split

- 1 Today as first speaker I will be talking to you about (Insert the general heading/s of the points you will be talking about.)
- 2 Our second speaker will be talking about (Insert the headings of the points your second speaker will be talking about.)
- 3 Our third speaker will rebut the affirmative case and sum up our team case.

Rebuttal

- 1 The first speaker from the affirmative team has tried to tell you (During the debate, you would have listed the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the affirmative side. Insert them here.)
- 2 This is wrong because (During the debate, write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)
- 3 S/he also said that (Insert another point for your rebuttal.)
- 4 This is wrong because (Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)

Arguments

- 1 I am going to discuss (Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points) points. My first point is (Insert your first point/ argument.)
- 2 This is because/the reason for this is (Explain the reason that supports your point/argument.)
- 3 Now to my second point. (Insert your second point.)
- 4 This is because (Explain the reason that supports your second point/argument.)
- 5 My third and final point is (If you have another point insert it here. You can have as many as you like, within the time limit.)

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ... (Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)

Second speaker, affirmative team

Introduction

- 1 *Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.*
- 2 *The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'*
- 3 *We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.*

Rebuttal

- 1 *The first speaker from the negative team has tried to tell you (During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 *This is wrong because (During the debate you will write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 *S/he also said that (Insert another point for your rebuttal.)*
- 4 *This is wrong because (Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)*

Recap

Our first speaker has already explained (Insert the main heading/s of your first speaker.)

Arguments

- 1 *Today I will be talking to you about (Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points) points. My first point is (Insert your first point/ argument.)*
- 2 *My first point is (Insert your first point/argument here.)*
- 3 *This is because/the reason for this is (Insert a reason explaining your point.)*
- 4 *Now to my second point (Insert your second point.)*
- 5 *This is because (Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*
- 6 *My third and final point is (If you have another point, insert it here. You can have as many points as you like, within the time limit.)*
- 7 *This is because (Insert another reason explaining your point.)*

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)

Second speaker, negative team

Introduction

- 1 *Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.*
- 2 *The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'*
- 3 *We, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.*

Rebuttal

- 1 *The second speaker for the affirmative team has tried to tell you (During the debate, you would have listed the main arguments outlined by the second speaker for the affirmative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 *This is wrong because (During the debate you will write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 *S/he also said that (Insert another point for your rebuttal.)*
- 4 *This is wrong because (Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)*

Recap

Our first speaker has already stated (Insert the main heading/s of your first speaker.)

Arguments

- 1 *Today I will be talking to you about (Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points) points.*
- 2 *Now to my first point ... (Insert your first point/ argument.)*
- 3 *This is because/the reason for this is (Insert a reason explaining your point.)*
- 4 *Now to my second point (Insert your second point.)*
- 5 *This is because (Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*
- 6 *My third and final point is (If you have another point, insert it here. You can have as many points as you like, within the time limit.)*
- 7 *This is because (Insert another reason explaining your point.)*

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)

Third speaker, affirmative team

Introduction

- 1 *Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.*
- 2 *The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'*
- 3 *We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.*

Rebuttal

- 1 *The first speaker for the negative has tried to tell you (During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 *This is wrong because (During the debate write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 *The second negative speaker has tried to tell you (During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the second speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 4 *This is wrong because (During the debate write a reason why what your opposition's second speaker has said is wrong. If you have some more points list them as well.)*

(Try to confute the points of every speaker of the other team. You should start confuting the first speaker and then keep on in order with the second speaker)

Summary

- 1 *As third speaker it is your job to summarise your case. You do this by listing the points of your first and second speaker.*
- 2 *Our first speaker spoke to you about (Insert your first speaker's first argument. Include a reason to support this argument.*
- 3 *S/he also spoke about (Insert your first speaker's second argument. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 4 *Our second speaker told you that (Insert your second speaker's first argument. Include reasons to support this argument.)*
- 5 *S/he also said that (Insert your second speaker's second argument. Include reasons to support this argument.*
- 6 *Make sure that you have included all your team's arguments and reasons.)*

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion our team believes ...

(As the final speaker for your team it is important to end your speech with a really memorable and powerful statement. If you can't think of anything to say you may say 'thank you' to finish.)

Third speaker, negative team

Introduction

- 1 *Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.*
- 2 *The topic for our debate is ‘that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)’*
- 3 *We, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.*

Rebuttal

- 1 *The first affirmative speaker has tried to tell you (During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the affirmative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 *This is wrong because (During the debate write a reason why what your opposition’s first speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 *The second affirmative speaker has tried to tell you (During the debate write what your opposition’s second speaker has said. Insert it here.)*
- 4 *This is wrong because (During the debate write a reason why what your opposition’s second speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 5 *The third affirmative speaker has tried to tell you (During the debate write what your opposition’s third speaker has said, if that is important. Insert it here.)*
- 6 *This is wrong because (During the debate write a reason why what your opposition’s third speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 7 *Try to rebut as many of the opposition’s points as you can.*

(Try to confute the points of every speaker of the other team. You should start confuting the first speaker and then keep on in order with the second speaker and then the third speaker)

Summary

- 1 *As third speaker it is your job to summarise your team’s case. You do this by listing the points of your first and second speakers.*
- 2 *Our first speaker spoke to you about (Insert your first speaker’s first point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 3 *S/he also said that (Insert your first speaker’s second point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 4 *Our second speaker spoke to you about (Insert your second speaker’s first point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 5 *S/he also stated that (Insert your second speaker’s second point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 6 *Make sure that you have included all the arguments for your team.*

Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion we believe ...

(As the final speaker for the negative, finish your speech with a really memorable and powerful statement. If you can’t think of anything to say you may say ‘thank you’ to finish.)

REPLY SPEECHES

The reply speech is delivered by either the 1st or the 2nd speaker of each team. Its purpose is not to bring in any new material, but to take a step back and rationally analyse the debate by weighing cases proposed by each side.

REPLY SPEECH AFFIRMATIVE/NEGATIVE TEAM

- Underline the points of your team
- Underline the points of the other team
- Show the clash points (If there were) → What is the 'point of clash'? The 'point of clash' is the essence of the debate. It is where the fundamental disagreement between the two sides lies. All the other disagreements simply derive from that first disagreement.
- Conclusion, why your team should win the debate

SOME ADVICE

- It is good to start off with a short introduction, pulling the judge's attention. The introduction can be a story, a description of status quo or the problem, your team-line, a special quote, some information, anything that is meaningful for the debate and highlights the team's strength
- Try to follow the structure of A-R-E → ASSERTION, REASONING AND EXAMPLE to develop your points during your speech. It's always important to bring examples or real facts.
- Remember that this is a TEAM WORK → everyone should repeat the team line, call the other speakers and the speeches must always be bounded by the same trace.

WHAT IS THE P.O.I ?

POINT OF INFORMATION = Questions during the debate to the other team in order to create problems to the other team or just to clarify some points of the speeches.