

Debating language

Opening the debate:

[a nice opening is using a 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.

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 ...

So as we have seen [argument label], and therefore [motion].

Now because of this ..., we have to support this motion.

Summarising & 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 ... ?

Declined.

Yes, please. / Go ahead.

I'm going to come to this very point in my second argument in a minute.

Giving summarising 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 ...

And for all these reasons, I beg you to prop/oppose