

## **DEBATING**

Each team sets out to convince the audience they are right.  
They can do this in two ways:

1. Pleasant, winning manner
2. Good solid, logical argument

### MANNER

Your voice and your body language help to win over the audience (AND THE ADJUDICATOR)

Voice. Clarity is the first essential. So project or use the microphone correctly. Variety - vocal colour is important. Pace, pitch and pause are effective tools, especially pause.

Body Language. This communicates conviction and gives emphasis to your points. Every debate is to some degree a 'performance' but don't get carried away - everything must be relevant to your team's argument.

Notes. Don't have large sheets of paper. Palm cards allow you to use body language more effectively, make a better impact and do not distract the audience.

### LOGICAL ARGUMENT

Debating is a TEAM effort, so requires preparation together by the three speakers so that each has a clear definition of their role and how the argument is to be developed.

Speakers 2,3,4,5,6 need to be able to analyse the previous speakers who are against them and detect any weaknesses in their logic or examples used, or the conviction with which they present their points.

TIME is important so don't get carried away with refutation and then be short of time to present your own points forcefully.

### FORMATION OF ARGUMENT

1. Decide what the topic involves
2. Define the terms in the topic
3. Analyse the argument eg, political, social and economic aspects, or perhaps personal, national and international etc
4. Make the argument a unity - make it cohere
5. Divide the argument between the first and second speakers of the team
6. When speaking, remember you are debating and not just stating a case. You need to show that your argument is stronger

### REFUTATION

You are concerned only with the arguments of your opponents, not their personal views, so attack the argument, NOT the person. When refuting, speak to the audience, NOT the opponent.

### SPEAKERS

Each speaker should address the 'Chair' and the audience.

### AFFIRMATIVE

- Speaker 1 Defines the topic and states the objective. Outlines the argument and begins it.  
Speaker 2 Counters any assault on his leader's definition, offers the main thrust of the argument.  
Speaker 3 Refutes previous opponents and sums up, showing the strength of his team's argument, working to a persuasive conclusion.

## NEGATIVE

- Speaker 1 Outlines their team's objective. Refutes the previous speaker and offers an alternative - begins the argument.
- Speaker 2 Refutes the second speaker for the affirmative by analysing the proposition and revealing any weaknesses. Then gives the main thrust of the negative team's argument.
- Speaker 3 Sums up strongly by rejecting the other team's argument and reiterating the main points of their own proposal.

Both the last speaker for the affirmative and the negative should not introduce any new material at this stage but rely on refutation and reiteration.

## QUOTATIONS

These are good to SUPPORT an argument not to take their place.  
Best if not too long and are NOT read.