

DEBATE MATE: TOP TIPS FOR DEBATING

Below is a guide for how to run your own debate! We've included some key preparation tips, how to format the debate, and how to create a well structured speech to help you and your team secure the win.

Top Debating Tips

Each speaker during a debate should offer a rebuttal and introduce their own argument using the REEL structure - see below:

THE REEL STRUCTURE

- Reason** - short and snappy statement! This is the reason for your argument. "My reason is...because..."
- Explain** - expand what you've said! This is where you explain or justify your reason - why is your reason true and important? "To explain this further..."
- Example** - give an example of your reason. It could be a fact/statistic, story or hypothetical scenario. "My example is..."
- Link** - link your reason back to the motion - "Therefore... because of X and Y we should do Z..."

REBUTTAL STRUCTURE

You said... but I disagree because... therefore...

JUDGING NOTES

CONTENT

- Who made the best **arguments and used the REEL structure**?
- Who **explained** their arguments most effectively and persuasively?
- Who used the most appropriate **examples**?
- Who **rebutted** the speaker that came before them?

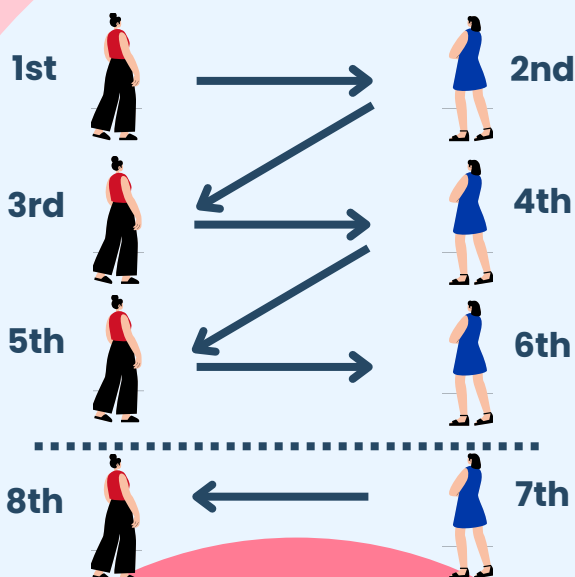
STYLE

- Who was speaking **fluently and confidently**?
- Who was making **eye contact** with the Judge and the audience?
- Who was using **hand gestures**?
- Who had confident **body language**?
- Who **varied their tone and pace** for dramatic effect?
- Who used **emotion** in their speech?
- Who used **persuasive language** such as rhetorical questions, alliteration and the rule of three?

Format

PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION



Point of Information



- POI is a quick polite interruption of the speaker
- You do not have to accept them all - you can say "No thank you" or "Declined"
- No one can POI in **protected time** (the first and last 30s of a speech)

Preparation Time SCRAP

- Sit down in your teams 1 minute
- Chat about your ideas 5 minutes
- Rank your points 2 minutes
- Assign your points 2 minutes
- Prepare your REEL 5 minutes

DEBATE MATE

