



# Cihan University of Sulaymaniyah

## Debating Skills

Lecturer

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# Outline

- What is a debate?
- Debate Goals
- Debate Objectives
- What is a topic?
- The Definition
- The Team Line
- Structure of the Argument
- The Roles of The Speakers

# What is a debate?

A debate is basically an argument between parties that passionately believe in a particular point of view.

Debating has strict rules of behaviour and arguing techniques and you will often be in a position where you will have to argue the opposite of what you believe in.

There are 6 type of debates:

1. Policy Debate
2. [Lincoln Douglas Debate](#)
3. Public Forum Debate
4. Parliamentary Debate
5. Congressional Debate
6. Impromptu Debate

# Debate Goals

## Objective Goals

- To provide a significant training ground for the development of students communicative abilities.
- To provide opportunities for students to practice and share their skill development.

# Debate Objectives

## Association Objectives

- To create learning situations in which students develop proficiencies based on sound educational and communication theories.
- To provide judges who will make judgements based on educational objectives and offer a critique that will help students achieve them.

## Student Objectives

### Skills

- A. To understand and communicate various forms of argument effectively in a variety of contexts.
- B. To develop the ability to analyze controversies, select and evaluate evidence, construct and refute arguments.

### Intellect

- A. To learn theories that seek to explain the process of communicating arguments with people.
- B. To clarify one's personal and social values through confrontation with the value judgements of others.
- C. To participate effectively in situations where decisions must be made.

### Social

- A. Promoting school and community relations through participation in an intellectual activity.
- B. Meeting and interacting with students from other schools in the context of a social and intellectual activity.
- C. To realize the simultaneous opportunities for leadership and group participation.

# What is a topic?

The TOPIC is something to argue about.

They are often about current issues of public or about general philosophies or ideas ("That beauty is better than brains").

All topics begin with the word "That", As in other arguments there are two sides to any topic, the team that agrees with the topic is called the AFFIRMATIVE and the team that disagrees with the topic is called the NEGATIVE.

# The Definition

If a debate is going to take place then it must be agreed in advance what the debate is going to be about, deciding and explaining what a topic means is called 'defining the topic',

The job of defining begins with the AFFIRMATIVE.

The first speaker of the affirmative must explain in clear terms what they believe the topic means.

The negative team may agree with or choose to challenge the definition presented, the negative team should be very careful about challenging as it is difficult to continue the debate with two definition.

# The Team Line

Because debating is a team event it is important that the three speakers work together as a team.

The TEAM LINE is the basic statement of "why the topic is true" (for the affirmative) and "why the topic is false" (for the negative).

It should be a short sentence, presented by the first speaker of each team and used by the other two speakers to enforce the idea of teamwork.



# Roles of The Speakers

In a debating team each speaker has specified roles that they must fulfil to play their part in the team.

**1st Affirmative must:** Define the topic, present the affirmative team line, outline briefly what each speaker in their team will talk about, present the first half of the affirmative case.

**1st negative must:** Accept or reject the definition. If you don't do this it is assumed that you accept the definition. Present the negative team line.

# Roles of The Speakers

Rebut the main points presented by the 1st negative. The 2nd affirmative should spend about one third of their time rebutting. Present the second half of the affirmative's case.

Rebut some of the main points of the affirmative's case. The 2nd negative should spend about one third of their time rebutting. Present the second half of the negative's case.

# Roles of The Speakers

Rebut all the remaining points of the negative's case. The 3rd affirmative should spend about two thirds to three quarters of their time rebutting. Present a summary of the affirmative's case. Round off the debate for the affirmative.

Rebut all the remaining points of the affirmative's case. The 3rd negative should spend about two thirds to three quarters of their time rebutting. Present a summary of the negative's case. Round off the debate for the negative.

# Rebuttal

In debating each team will present points in favour of their case. They will also spend some time criticising the arguments presented by the other team. This is called rebuttal.

**There are a few things to remember about rebuttal:**

1. Logic - to say that the other side is wrong is not enough.
2. Pick the important points - try to rebut the most important points of the other side's case.

# The Individual Speaker's <sup>2</sup> Techniques

There are many techniques that each speaker can use in their speech but there are three main areas that you will be marked on and they are:

**Matter, Method and Manner.**

# The Individual Speaker's <sup>3</sup> Techniques

## Matter

- Matter is what you say, it is the substance of your speech. You should divide your matter into arguments and examples
- Matter cannot be just a long list of examples. You do not win a debate by creating the biggest pile of facts.
- Many debates are on currently important issues so it is good for any debater to keep themselves informed of what is happening in the world around them and what are the issues involved.

# The Individual Speaker's Techniques

## Method

Where matter is what you say method is how you organise what you say.  
There are many pieces of the method:

1. **TEAM.** Good team method involves unity and logic. Unity is created by all members being aware of the definition, what the other speakers have said and what the team line is.
2. **INDIVIDUAL.** You must structure your own speech well. The first step is to have a clear idea of your own arguments and which examples you will be using to support those arguments.

# The Individual Speaker's Techniques

## Manner

Manner is how you present what you say and there are various aspects of manner that you need to be aware of.

1. CUE CARDS. Do not write out your speech on cue cards.
2. EYE CONTACT. Is very closely related to cue cards.
3. VOICE. There are many things you can do with your voice to make it effective.
4. BODY. Your body is a tool for you to use. Make hand gestures deliberately and with confidence.
5. NERVOUS HABITS. Avoid them.



# Performance

Don't spend your debating life worrying about numbers. Adjudicators are friendly people who will happily speak with you after the debate and tell you about your individual performance.

# Assignment

Read this PowerPoint document carefully, you should translate this document as a group to Kurdish language, read it in Kurdish again understand it, discuss it with your college friends.