

# Formal Debate Matters

A debate is a formal disagreement or a structured contest about an issue or a resolution.

There are two sides in a formal debate: one **supports** a resolution and one **opposes** it.

# Debate benefits

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# **Debate can help speakers**

- Think logically;
- Improve self-confidence ;
- Develop reasoned opinions;
- Provide comprehensive understanding of the researched topic;
- Develop leadership traits.

# Debate Structure

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**A formal debate has three groups:**

**The first supports a resolution (affirmative team), the second opposes the resolution (opposing team), and the third judges the quality of the evidence, performance and arguments of the debate.**

# Debate Preparation

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The text 'Debate Preparation' is centered on the left side of the slide in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



1. Select your topic and your side of the argument.
2. Research your topic and Prepare supporting evidence and examples for your position.
3. Anticipate counter-arguments and prepare ideas to rebut/refute.

4. Familiarize yourself with the rules of the debate, such as timelines and the assessment criteria of the debate.
5. Plan, as a team, the order and content of the debate.

# Conducting Debate

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First, the affirmative team opens the debate by presenting their arguments.

Next, the opposing team presents their resolution (counter argument). This pattern is repeated for each speaker in each team.

Third, each team (affirmative and opposing) has an opportunity for rebutting the arguments of the other opponent team.

A suggested format for debate, with timelines, can be as follows:

The first speaker on the affirmative team presents arguments in support of the resolution. (2 - 3 minutes)

The first speaker on the opposing team presents arguments opposing the resolution. (2 - 3 minutes)



The second speaker on the affirmative team presents further arguments in favour of the resolution, identifies areas of conflict, and answers questions raised by the opposition team. (3 - 5 minutes)

The second speaker on the opposing team presents further arguments against the resolution, identifies further areas of conflict, and answers any questions raised by the previous affirmative team. (3 - 5 minutes)

**Rebuttal:** The opposing team attempts to defend the opposing arguments and defeat the supporting arguments without adding any new information. (3 - 5 minutes)

# Tips for effective debate

The slide features a white background with a decorative graphic on the right side. This graphic consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green shapes in various shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, creating a dynamic, abstract composition that tapers towards the top right corner.

1. Introduce yourself and your argument to support your stance
2. Listen carefully and take notes to be able to refute the argument of the other team.
3. Anticipate specific comments and questions to support your stance.
4. Speak slowly and clearly.

5. Ask questions to other groups/participants and respond to the ideas of other participants
6. Challenge the ideas of the opposing groups
7. Use evidence and concrete examples to clarify your points

8. Maintain eye contact with peers

9. Do not monopolise the discussion

10. Refer to the phrases in the “***Debate Phrases***” worksheet

## References: Adapted from

<https://www.academic-englishuk.com/debate-phrases>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErYAqoJ\\_bag\](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErYAqoJ_bag\)

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/8249858/>

[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame\\_found\\_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame_found_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB3vEzu6gUo>