



## Template for debate speeches

Note: This document is intended as a guide for writing speeches for a debate. Variations may be necessary depending on the type and level of competition.

### First speaker, affirmative team

#### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... *(Insert the topic of the debate.)*'

#### Definition

- 1 We, the affirmative team, define the topic as *(Explain what the topic means. Define the key or important words in the topic. Use a dictionary to help you. You should make sure that the topic is clearly explained in a sentence or two.)*
- 2 We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.

#### Team split

- 1 Today as first speaker, I will be talking to you about *(Insert the general heading/s of the points you will be talking about.)*
- 2 Our second speaker will be talking about *(Insert the headings of the points your second speaker will be talking about.)*
- 3 Our third speaker will rebut the negative team and sum up our team case.

#### Rebuttal

There is no rebuttal for the first affirmative speaker.

#### Arguments

- 1 I am going to discuss *(insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points)* points.
- 2 My first point is *(Insert your first point/argument.)* This is because/the reason for this is *(Explain the reason that supports your point.)*
- 3 Now to my second point *(Insert your second point.)*
- 4 This is because *(Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*

*(If you have some more points, insert them here in a similar manner.)*

#### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

*(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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## First speaker, negative team

### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... *(Insert the topic of the debate.)*'
- 3 We **agree** with the definition given by the affirmative team.  
OR  
We **disagree** with the definition given by the opposition. *(If you disagree explain why the opposition's definition is wrong.)*
- 4 However we, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.

### Team split

- 1 Today as first speaker I will be talking to you about *(Insert the general heading/s of the points you will be talking about.)*
- 2 Our second speaker will be talking about *(Insert the headings of the points your second speaker will be talking about.)*
- 3 Our third speaker will rebut the affirmative case and sum up our team case.

### Rebuttal

- 1 The first speaker from the affirmative team has tried to tell you *(During the debate, you would have listed the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the affirmative side. Insert them here.)*
- 2 This is wrong because *(During the debate, write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 S/he also said that *(Insert another point for your rebuttal.)*
- 4 This is wrong because *(Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)*

### Arguments

- 1 I am going to discuss *(Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points)* points. My first point is *(Insert your first point/ argument.)*
- 2 This is because/the reason for this is *(Explain the reason that supports your point/argument.)*
- 3 Now to my second point. *(Insert your second point.)*
- 4 This is because *(Explain the reason that supports your second point/argument.)*
- 5 My third and final point is *(If you have another point insert it here. You can have as many as you like, within the time limit.)*

### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

*(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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## Second speaker, affirmative team

### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... *(Insert the topic of the debate.)*'
- 3 We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.

### Rebuttal

- 1 The first speaker from the negative team has tried to tell you *(During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 This is wrong because *(During the debate you will write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 S/he also said that *(Insert another point for your rebuttal.)*
- 4 This is wrong because *(Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)*

### Recap

Our first speaker has already explained *(Insert the main heading/s of your first speaker.)*

### Arguments

- 1 Today I will be talking to you about *(Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points)* points. My first point is *(Insert your first point/ argument.)*
- 2 My first point is *(Insert your first point/argument here.)*
- 3 This is because/the reason for this is *(Insert a reason explaining your point.)*
- 4 Now to my second point *(Insert your second point.)*
- 5 This is because *(Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*
- 6 My third and final point is *(If you have another point, insert it here. You can have as many points as you like, within the time limit.)*
- 7 This is because *(Insert another reason explaining your point.)*

### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

*(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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## Second speaker, negative team

### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... *(Insert the topic of the debate.)*'
- 3 We, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.

### Rebuttal

- 1 The second speaker for the affirmative team has tried to tell you *(During the debate, you would have listed the main arguments outlined by the second speaker for the affirmative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 This is wrong because *(During the debate you will write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 S/he also said that *(Insert another point for your rebuttal.)*
- 4 This is wrong because *(Insert a reason why that point is wrong.)*

### Recap

Our first speaker has already stated *(Insert the main heading/s of your first speaker.)*

### Arguments

- 1 Today I will be talking to you about *(Insert the number of points. There are usually 2 or 3 points)* points.
- 2 Now to my first point ... *(Insert your first point/ argument.)*
- 3 This is because/the reason for this is *(Insert a reason explaining your point.)*
- 4 Now to my second point *(Insert your second point.)*
- 5 This is because *(Insert a reason that supports and explains your second point/argument.)*
- 6 My third and final point is *(If you have another point, insert it here. You can have as many points as you like, within the time limit.)*
- 7 This is because *(Insert another reason explaining your point.)*

### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion ...

*(Finish your debate speech with a sentence that sums up what your team believes. You can use humour or a quote or you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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## Third speaker, affirmative team

### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'
- 3 We, the affirmative team, believe that this statement is true.

### Rebuttal

- 1 The first speaker for the negative has tried to tell you *(During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 This is wrong because *(During the debate write a reason why that point is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 The second negative speaker has tried to tell you *(During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the second speaker for the negative team. Insert them here.)*
- 4 This is wrong because *(During the debate write a reason why what your opposition's second speaker has said is wrong. If you have some more points list them as well.)*

### Summary

- 1 *As third speaker it is your job to summarise your case. You do this by listing the points of your first and second speaker.*
- 2 *Our first speaker spoke to you about (Insert your first speaker's first argument. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 3 *S/he also spoke about (Insert your first speaker's second argument. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 4 *Our second speaker told you that (Insert your second speaker's first argument. Include reasons to support this argument.)*
- 5 *S/he also said that (Insert your second speaker's second argument. Include reasons to support this argument.)*
- 6 *Make sure that you have included all your team's arguments and reasons.)*

### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion our team believes ...

*(As the final speaker for your team it is important to end your speech with a really memorable and powerful statement. If you can't think of anything to say you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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## Third speaker, negative team

### Introduction

- 1 Good morning/afternoon/evening Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students.
- 2 The topic for our debate is 'that ... (Insert the topic of the debate.)'
- 3 We, the negative team, believe that this statement is false.

### Rebuttal

- 1 The first affirmative speaker has tried to tell you *(During the debate, list the main arguments outlined by the first speaker for the affirmative team. Insert them here.)*
- 2 This is wrong because *(During the debate write a reason why what your opposition's first speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 3 The second affirmative speaker has tried to tell you *(During the debate write what your opposition's second speaker has said. Insert it here.)*
- 4 This is wrong because *(During the debate write a reason why what your opposition's second speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 5 The third affirmative speaker has tried to tell you *(During the debate write what your opposition's third speaker has said, if that is important. Insert it here.)*
- 6 This is wrong because *(During the debate write a reason why what your opposition's third speaker has said is wrong. Insert it here.)*
- 7 *Try to rebut as many of the opposition's points as you can.*

### Summary

- 1 *As third speaker it is your job to summarise your team's case. You do this by listing the points of your first and second speakers.*
- 2 *Our first speaker spoke to you about (Insert your first speaker's first point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 3 *S/he also said that (Insert your first speaker's second point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 4 *Our second speaker spoke to you about (Insert your second speaker's first point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 5 *S/he also stated that (Insert your second speaker's second point. Include a reason to support this argument.)*
- 6 *Make sure that you have included all the arguments for your team.*

### Ending

So Mr/Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, teachers and students, in conclusion we believe ...

*(As the final speaker for the negative, finish your speech with a really memorable and powerful statement. If you can't think of anything to say you may say 'thank you' to finish.)*

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