

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.*)

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.*)

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.)

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.)

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.*)

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.*)