Next Toppers

Debating Skills

By

MagnoLlia Ma am

- Public Speaking
- Fluency Practice
- Communication Skills
- Confidence Building

A
B
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Debate

A debate is a formal discussion on a specific topic where two opposite sides try to convince a judge or audience that their argument is better. It is not a shouting match or a fight. It is a battle of words, logic, and ideas.

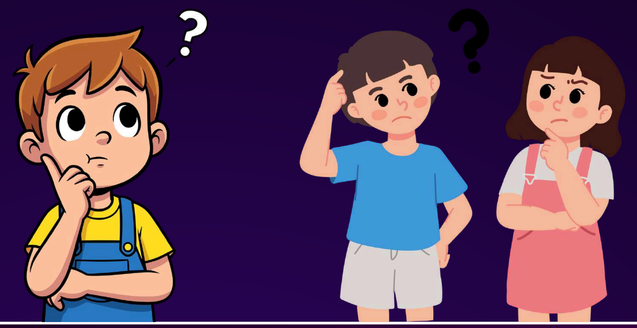
4 IMPORTANT points for Debate:

- The Motion: The topic being discussed. You can start with "This House Believes That..." (THBT). | Example: THBT video games are better than books.
- The Proposition/Affirmative: The team that agrees with the motion. They want to change things.
- The Opposition: The team that disagrees with the motion. They want to keep things as they are.
- The Rebuttal: Proving why the other team's argument is incorrect or weak.

The ARE Method

A - Assertion (The Top Bun): This is your main point or claim. It's short and clear.
Example: "School uniforms should be banned because they stop self-expression."
R - Reasoning (The Meat/Filling): This explains why your assertion is true. Use the word "because."
Example: "Because teenagers use clothing to express their personality, talents, and identities. Forcing everyone to wear the same thing suppresses their individuality."
E - Evidence/Example (The Bottom Bun): This proves your reasoning with a real-world fact, study, or logical example.
Example: "According to a survey by the National Youth Council, 82% of students feel happier and more confident when they can choose their own outfits."

TO DO list



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1. The first and the foremost step is to choose the side, whether you want to write for, or against the motion.
2. Follow the structure:

- The Hook : Start with a shocking quote, question, or story. (e.g., ”Imagine waking up every day and being forced to wear something that makes you feel uncomfortable...”)
- Introduce Yourself & Your Stance : ”Good morning judges, my name is [Name], and today I am proud to support/oppose the motion that...”
- Your Two Main Points (A.R.E.) : Present your two strongest arguments.
- The Rebuttal : Address what the other side said and knock it down.
- Conclusion : Finish with a memorable summary. ”Therefore, I strongly urge you to vote for our side.”

3. Give proof

Sample

Introduction- This includes salutations and the topic (including FOR/AGAINST the motion).
For Example:- Good morning everyone. Esteemed judges, honourable guests, respected teachers and my fellow students. I, (name given in the question or else, XYZ) feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to speak (FOR/AGAINST) the topic- (name of the topic).

Body (Problem)- This is the main paragraph or the body of your answer.
Always begin with the meaning of the topic or the explanation of the topic in not more than a line.
Then start quoting the issues. Now here, it is important you follow a sequence. It is possible that you have too many points or very few points. When you have a lot of varied points, it is better you choose a few best ones and write a line on each. In case you have very few already, explain them in at least two lines each.
Make sure you are clear with your thoughts, only then you'll be able to put them into words unambiguously.

Solution- "For every problem, there is a solution."
This paragraph needs to be short and crisp whereby, you are supposed to give a rational and practical solution for all the above problems.

- In case you are not able to figure one out, keep in mind a few general ones- awareness, campaigns, stringent laws and their strict implementation, education, etc.
- Using a quote- a few handy ones. ("Wherever there is unity, there is always victory. "/ "Unity is strength.")

Conclusion- This part involves clarification of your statement and stance along with thanking the audience for being such patient listeners.
This paragraph needs to be short and precise.

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Exercise

- **Motion 1: Schools should ban all homework.**

Next Toppers

Exercise

- **Motion 1: Schools should ban all homework.**

For the Motion (Proposition)

1. Reduces Stress and Burnout
2. Encourages a Well-Rounded Life
3. In-Class Learning is More Effective
4. Creates an Level Playing Field
5. Promotes Physical Health

Against the Motion (Opposition)

1. Reinforces Classroom Learning
2. Teaches Vital Life Skills
3. Keeps Parents Connected
4. Prepares Students for the Future
5. Provides Feedback for Teachers

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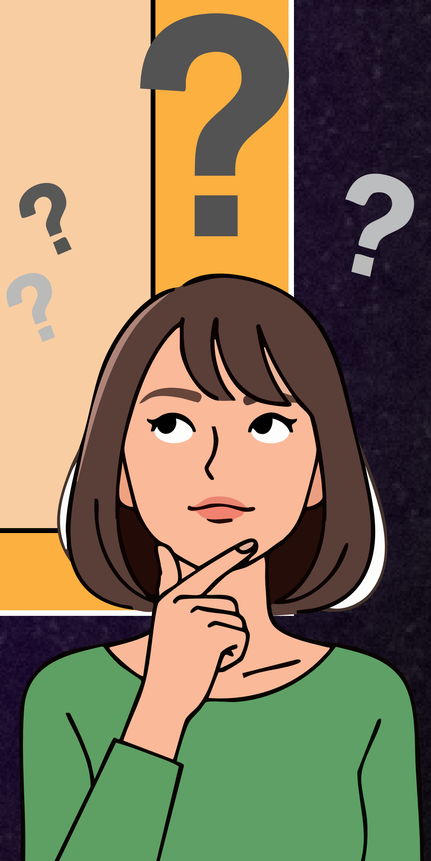
Exercise

- Motion 2: Schools should only happen 4 days a week.



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Exercise

- **Motion 2: Schools should only happen 4 days a week.**

For the Motion (Proposition)

1. Reduces Burnout and Boosts Morale
2. Higher Attendance Rates
3. Financial Savings for Schools
4. More Time for Personal Growth
5. Attracts Better Teachers

Against the Motion (Opposition)

1. Longer, Exhausting Days
2. Childcare Crisis for Parents
3. The "Forgetting Effect"
4. Loss of a Safe Haven and Meals
5. Disrupted After-School Routines

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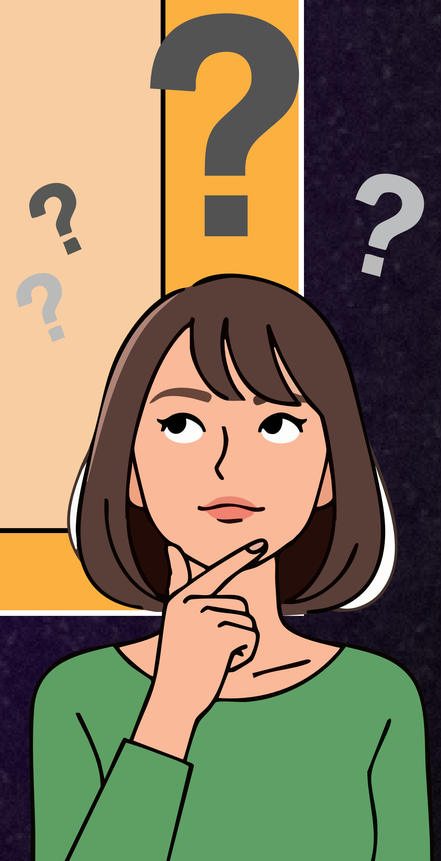
Exercise

- Motion 3: Social media does more harm than good for kids.



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Exercise

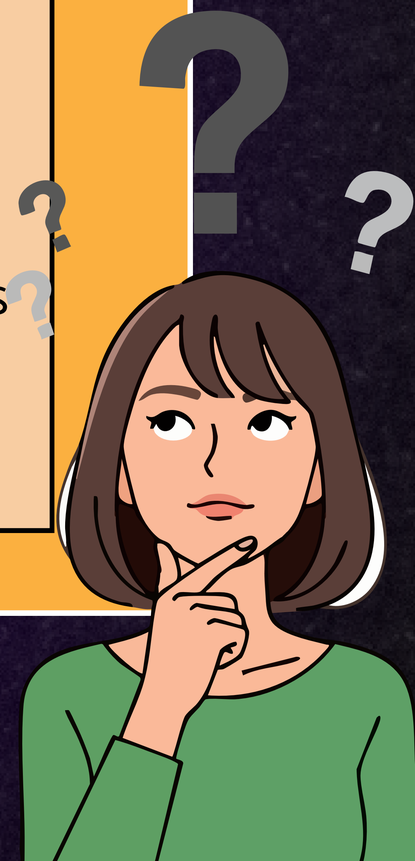
- **Motion 3: Social media does more harm than good for kids.**

For the Motion (Proposition)

1. Damages Mental Health
2. Breeding Ground for Cyberbullying
3. Highly Addictive and Distracting
4. Reduces Real-World Social Skills
5. Privacy and Safety Risks

Against the Motion (Opposition)

1. Builds Global Communities
2. Encourages Creativity and Self-Expression
3. A Tool for Learning and Awareness
4. Strengthens Existing Friendships
5. Develops Essential Digital Literacy



Remember

1. Attack the Idea, Not the Person: Never call your opponent names. Focus on why their argument is weak, not why they are wrong.
2. Tone and Body Language Matter: Stand tall, look at your audience, and speak clearly. A calm, confident voice is much more powerful than shouting.
3. Listen Actively: You cannot defeat an argument unless you actually listen to what the other side is saying!

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Homework

- Motion 1: Zoos should be banned. Write down one complete A.R.E. argument for your stance .

- Motion 2: This House would replace all human teachers with AI robots. Write down one complete A.R.E. argument for your stance .

Thank You

Impromptu Speaking

By

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Impromptu Speaking

Impromptu speech is an **unplanned presentation** delivered with **little to no preparation time**

How is it useful?

- **T**he ability to speak on the spot without preparation
- Builds immense confidence
- Enhances your critical thinking speed
- Helps communicate clearly under pressure
- Trains our brain to organize ideas instantly and **eliminates hesitant filler** words like ”um” and “uh”, “yeah” “like” etc.

PANIC!
PANIC!
PANIC!
PANIC!
PANIC!
PANIC!

Step 1

Taming the Panic

- Audience doesn't expect a polished, poetic essay, they expect a coherent thought.
- Power Pause- go against your nature of instantly starting to speak- stand silently, breathe, and count to three before you start speaking
- If we stutter or misspeak, DONOT worry - "smile", correct it calmly, and keep moving. The audience mirrors the speaker's emotional state–if we are not rattled, the audience won't be either.

Step 2

Next Toppers

Structural Frameworks

After getting a topics, what should be our approach to prepare for the extempore??

- Opinion/ Arguments (”In today’s rapidly shifting economy, is it better to be a master of one specific skill, or a ’jack-of-all-trades’?”)
- Concept / Trends (”In a world where generative AI can instantly answer any factual question, the value of ’knowing facts’ has plummeted. What does it mean to be an truly educated person today?”)
- Controversial topics (”Should governments pass a strict, irreversible global ban on ’designer baby’ technologies to prevent the creation of a genetically engineered upper class, even if it means halting breakthroughs that could permanently eradicate hereditary diseases?”)
- Descriptive topics / events (describing any item or event)

Step 2

Method A: The P.E.R.P. Method (Best for opinions/arguments)

- Point: State your main thesis clearly.
- Explanation: Explain why you hold this view.
- Real-World Example: Tell a quick story, cite a fact, or use a personal anecdote.
- Point: Restate your opening view with a summary twist.

Method B: The Chronological Grid (Best for concepts/trends)

- Past: How did this topic look a decade ago?
- Present: Where do we stand with this topic right now?
- Future: Where is this heading, or what needs to change?

Method C: The Pendulum (Best for controversial topics)

- Side A (Pros): Acknowledge the merits of one side of the argument.
- Side B (Cons): Pivot to the counterarguments or downsides.
- The Verdict: Offer a balanced, nuanced conclusion that bridges both sides.

Method D: The 5 Ws (Best for descriptive topics/events)

- Who is affected? I What is the core issue? I Where/When does it matter? I Why should we care?

Tips and Tricks

Think Cleverly

- When you have received the topic, analyse how will you present your knowlegde about the topic instead of trying to gain more information.

Tips and Tricks

Tactful Time-Buying

You can buy processing time without using filler words (”um,” ”ah,” ”like”) by using these phrases:

- “That is a question that hits at the very core of how we live today...”
- “When we look at a topic like [Topic], we are really looking at a mirror of our society...”
- Repeating and validating the prompt: “Should artificial intelligence be regulated? To answer that, we have to look at...”

Tips and Tricks

Not a Debate

- There’s no need to choose sides, if you have to speak for or against the topics. Describe the information or knowledge that you have in a seamless way

Tips and Tricks

Facts! You have a chance to WIN!

- If you have received a topic about which you have factual data, this will give you an upper hand as you will be able to present not just opinion, but truth about the topic.

Tips and Tricks

Art of the Pivot

If we get a topic we know absolutely nothing about, remember to pivot to a related area where we do have knowledge.

- Example: ”The economic impacts of **deep-sea mining**.”

The Pivot: ”While the technicalities of deep-sea mining are best left to marine biologists, the core issue here is how humanity balances short-term corporate greed with long-term environmental stewardship...” (Suddenly, they are giving a speech on environmental ethics, which is much easier to talk about).

Example

The Chapstick / Lip Balm

In a world full of harsh environments and biting cold, people will try to dry you out. Don't change the weather. Just apply your armor, stay smooth, and never let the world chap your spirit.

We invest billions in cybersecurity to protect our data, yet we leave our most vulnerable asset—the gateway to our speech—completely exposed to the elements. This isn't cosmetics, it's a bio-shield for the most powerful tool you own: your voice.

Example

A Set of Keys

We spend years staring at locked doors, waiting for someone to open them for us. Look at your hand. You're already holding the metal. Stop waiting for permission to enter your own future.

It weighs less than an ounce, but it dictates exactly where you can sleep, what you can drive, and what you can secure. It's not a piece of jagged metal, it's physical authorization of human freedom.

Thank You

ERROR

Building Confidence in speaking & Storytelling

By

MagnoLlia Ma am

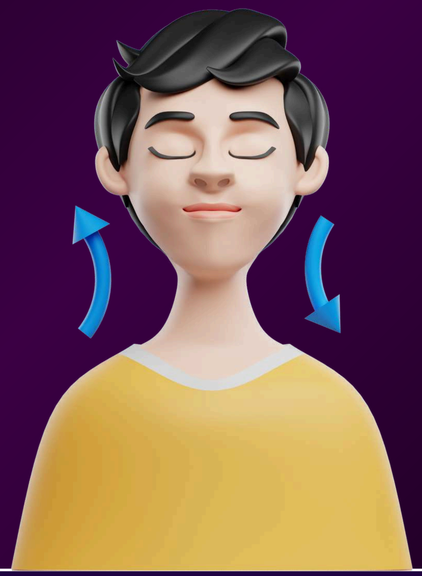
When you are asked to speak in front of the class, what does your brain do?

- Option A: It completely deletes all information like a crashed hard drive.
- Option B: It runs a marathon–my heart beats like a techno remix.
- Option C: I magically survive, but I have no idea what I just said.
- Option D: I’m totally fine, I secretely love the spotlight

3 Second Rule

Pause

Breathe



Lock

Next Toppers

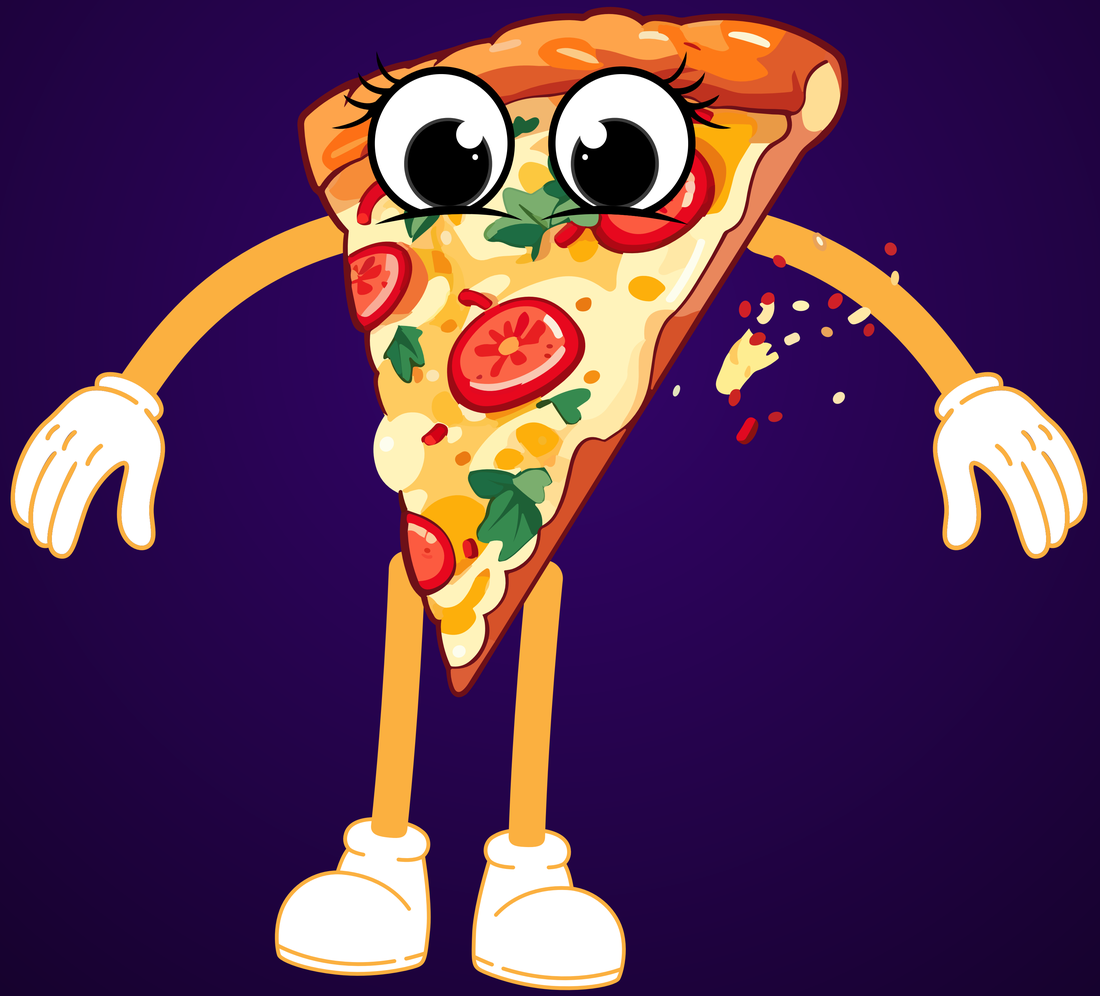
Lets Test

The Character and The Goal

Who is our main character?

- Option A: An anxious superhero whose power only works when he is scared.
- Option B: A talking pizza slice trying to escape a school cafeteria.
- Option C: A normal middle-schooler who wakes up fluent in cat language.]

The Conflict



The Climax and The Lesson

How does Bob’s story end?

- Option A: He escapes out the window and joins a local bakery.
- Option B: He sacrifices himself to save a lonely garlic breadstick.
- Option C: He realizes his true destiny is to be delicious and accepted.

Storytelling

Look at what we just did in three minutes. We built a story with a hero, a conflict, and a dramatic ending. When you have **a structure, storytelling** isn't magic–it's **just connecting the dots**

Remember:
The world doesn't need you to be a perfect speaker who sounds like a news anchor. The world needs your specific story, told your way. The next time you have to speak, don't rush to get it over with. Take your three seconds. Own your pause.

Storytelling Techniques

The 3-2-1 Breakdown

- 3 Points (The Core Logic): Start by outlining exactly three points to answer the question. This gives your audience a mental ”map” of what you are going to say, and it keeps you focused.
- 2 Examples (The Depth): Provide two examples, categories, or scenarios related to your main points. This proves you aren’t just theorizing and adds practical context.
- 1 Takeaway (The Mic Drop): End with one clear, actionable conclusion. This is the most important part of the framework because it gives your listener a final, memorable call-to-action or priorit

5 Ps of Speaking

- Pace: The speed at which you speak. Keeping an even tempo (averaging 120-150 words per minute) ensures your audience can digest the information without feeling rushed.
- Pause: The strategic silence before or after making a crucial point. Pausing allows a statement to resonate and gives listeners time to process.
- Pitch: The highness or lowness of your voice. Varying your pitch helps maintain audience interest and prevents you from sounding monotone.
- Projection: The volume of your voice. You must speak loudly enough to be heard clearly by everyone in the room without having to shout.
- Pronunciation: The clear articulation and enunciation of your words. This ensures your message is easily understood and avoids confusion

Body Language

- Keep Strong Posture: Stand tall, plant your feet, and use open body language. Confident presence alone commands subtle, but powerful, respect before you even say a word.
- Hold Meaningful Eye Contact: Instead of scanning the room frantically or staring at your notes, lock eyes with individuals in the audience for a few seconds. This creates an intimate, one-on-one feel even in a large space.
- Listen and Adapt: Gauge your audience's reactions. Be prepared to adapt your delivery or take questions mid-speech so the presentation feels like a conversation rather than a rehearsed monologue.
- Be Authentically You: Let your true personality shine. Speaking organically is far more persuasive than adopting an overly stiff, artificial "presentation persona"

Thank You