

# Debating Tips

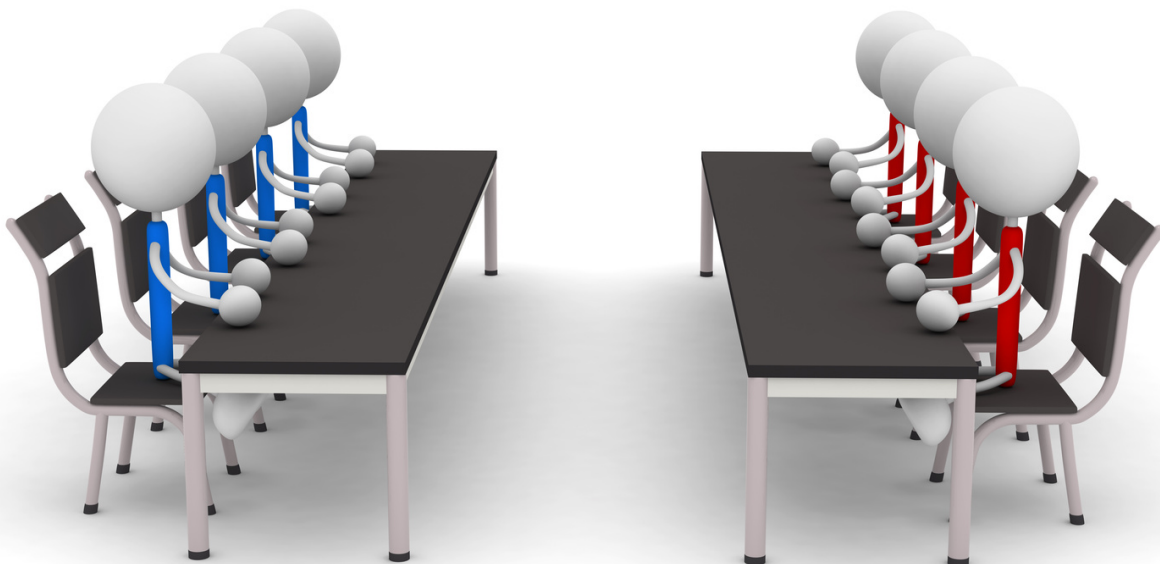


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## Overview

Debating is an art form that requires practice, preparation, and a willingness to listen to other viewpoints. Here are some tips for learning how to debate:

1. **Research the topic:** Before you start debating, make sure you have a good understanding of the topic. Take the time to research different viewpoints and gather evidence to support your arguments.
2. **Practice, practice, practice:** Like any skill, debating takes practice. Find a debate club or practice partner and work on your skills. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will be in front of an audience.
3. **Listen to your opponent:** Don't just focus on what you want to say, but also listen to your opponent's arguments. This will help you understand their perspective and find weaknesses in their argument that you can exploit.
4. **Be respectful:** Remember that debating is about presenting your ideas, not attacking your opponent. Be respectful and avoid personal attacks or insults. This will not only make the debate more productive, but also help you build relationships with your opponents.
5. **Stay focused:** During a debate, it's easy to get sidetracked or distracted. Stay focused on your arguments and make sure you are addressing the topic at hand. This will help you stay on track and make a stronger case for your position.



# Tips for Grade 5 & 6 Debating



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## Preparing for a debate:

Always bring paper, pencils and a water bottle.

Plan together as a team.

Write your speech out and then **highlight each new bit**. You can use your notes but try to practice enough so you don't read them. The most convincing arguing is when you look someone in the eye! Put your speech on cards. Don't bring big bits of paper.

Your team will be adjudicated (judged) on

- **Matter:** what you argue
- **Method :** following procedure
- **Manner:** how you argue

**Feel confident or pretend you do!**

Look out at others: the audience, the other team, the adjudicator, especially the audience. Speak **SLOWLY** and clearly. Practice this.

Have as many ideas as you can then divide them between the speakers.

Try to **divide logically:**

Examples:

- Local community and Australia wide,
- Scientific reasons/ cultural reasons.

Also think about what the other side will argue. Then prepare arguments against them.

# Different Speaker Roles



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## 1st Speaker:

Introduction to the debate.

Good morning adjudicator, ....

Today we are debating , **define** the topic. **Explain** what it means.  
.... as the affirmative /negative side we will convince you...

First speaker of a negative team doesn't have to redefine, they can just say "we agree with the topic as defined by the opposition"

Outline your team's arguments

I will talk about:

Our second speaker (name) will go on to talk about,

Our third speaker (name) will refute and sum up.

**Main part of speech:** aim for 2 main ideas. Separate them, "now my second point.... "

State your idea, then explain it, give an example and how it helps your overall argument.

At end, sit down but keep working!

Everyone in the team needs to keep listening to the other side and be ready to respond by preparing rebuttals for speaker 2 and especially speaker 3. Avoid talking to each other but pass notes CLEARLY written.

## 2nd Speaker:

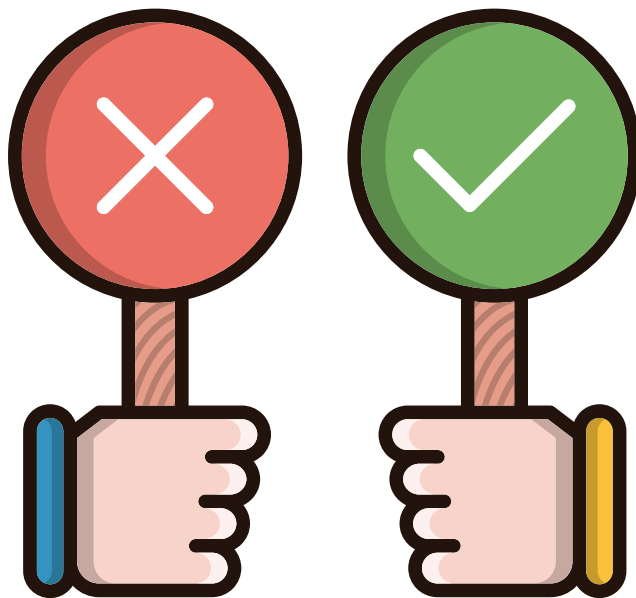
Don't repeat ideas from speaker 1, but you can follow up.

2 or 3 ideas , separated with " Now my next point..."

Try to do 1 rebuttal, can do it at the start or work it in your debate.

You're giving all the rest of your team's arguments so make sure that speakers 1 & 2 introduce every idea.

State your idea, and explain it, give an example and then link it to your topic.



### 3rd speaker:

NO new ideas.

Job is really to rebut , argue back. Show how the opposition are wrong , mistaken , and how you are correct. Listen carefully to the opposition and write out arguments as they speak. Have some rebuttals on cards ready with you, and as the opposition mentions something put the card in your pile! If they don't bring a topic up, leave the card out.

Rebuttal:

1. Say what they said.
2. Say why they are wrong.
3. Say why you are right, linked to the title of your debate.

Example :

Debate topic: We should colonize the Moon.

1. The opposition said that we should colonize the Moon because Earth is dying.
2. We say that this is not a valid reason to colonize the Moon. We should be spending money to save the Earth now for everyone, rather than sending a few people to the Moon.
3. People on Earth need us to concentrate on fixing Earth's problem, not running away from them, we should not be colonizing the Moon.

And give a summary of your team's arguments. Keep this short, just a quick reminder.

Our first speaker showed you, our second speaker then .... Finish strong: I am sure that you are now convinced that ... Then sit down, and enjoy your accomplishment!