**BASIC DEBATING RULES**

**TOPICS**

There are two sides in a debate

1. Affirmative - agrees with the topic being debated on
2. Negative - disagrees with the topic being debated on

**CONTROLLERS**

**Debate Announcer**  - introduces the topic and the members of the Debating Team

-mentions that each speaker will be timed (normally at 3 minutes minimum)

**Timekeepe**r - taps on the desk when the time has elapsed to inform both the Announcer

and the Debater

-each Speaker will be timed, have the same allowance of time, excess of the

time limit gives the Timekeeper the right to stop the speaker

**THE TEAM LINE**

The Team Line is the basic statement of the Debate

1. For the Affirmative Team –why the topic is true
2. For the Negative Team – why the topic is false

It should be a short sentence, presented by the first speaker of each team, and used by the

succeeding speakers to enforce the idea of the topic and enforce team work.

**SPEAKERS**

Each side has a minimum of 3 speakers on each side, who speaks alternatively.

*First Speaker of the Affirmative Team*

-define the Topic

-present the Affirmative Team’s Line

-outline briefly the topic of each speaker

-present the first half of the Affirmative Team’s case

Pp.2….Basic Debating Rules

*First Speaker of the Negative Team*

-accept or reject the definition (if this is not done, then, the acceptance of the definition is assumed)

-present the Negative Team’s Line

-outline briefly the topic of each speaker

-rebuttal of a few main points of the First Affirmative Speaker

-spend about one quarter of their time for rebuttal

-present the first half of the Negative Team’s case

*Second Affirmative Speaker*

-re-affirm the Affirmative Team’s Line

-rebuttal of the main points presented by the first negative speaker

-spend about one-third of their time for rebuttal

-present the second half of the Affirmative Team’s case

*Second Negative Speaker*

* Re-affirm the Negative Team’s Line
* Rebuttal of some of the main points of the Affirmative Team’s case
* Spend about one-third of their time for rebuttal
* Present the second half of the Negative Team’s case

*Third Affirmative Speaker*

* Re-affirm the Affirmative Team’s Line
* Rebuttal of the remaining points of the Negative Team’s case
* Spend about two-thirds to three quarters of their time for rebuttal
* Present a summary of the Affirmative Team’s case
* Round-off or summarise the debate for the Affirmative Team

Pp.3….Basic Debating Rules

*Third Negative Speaker*

* Re-affirm the Negative Team’s Line
* Rebuttal of all the remaining points of the Affirmtive Team’s case
* Spend about two-thirds to three quarters of their time for rebuttal
* Present a summary of the Negative Team’s case
* Round-off or summarise the debate for the Negative Team

**Note**: Neither of the two Third Speakers may introduce any further topics of their Team’s case

**DEBATING TIPS**

-**Body Language** – Make your body work for you by using hand gestures with confidence. Move your head and upper body to maintain eye contact with all members of the audience. Maintain good posture by standing up straight and definitely not slouching over the desk. Be confident and don’t let the audience know you might be nervous.

Nervous Habits – avoid them like the plague. Playing with the cue cards, pulling strands of your hair, fiddling with your watch or bouncing up and down on your feet, etc., will cause distraction from what you are saying. Don’t let any one thing detract from your ability to persuade the audience.

- **High-Falluting Words** – avoid going overboard with “big” words and confusing people. If you don’t understand those words yourself, then chances are that no one else will understand what you are saying. It would be a huge mistake to debate and get stuck on a word that you are not sure what it means or also one that you can’t even pronounce.

**The Marking Scheme in a Debate**

Every adjudicator marks to a standard. You will get a mark/score for matter, manner and method with a total mark out of a 100.

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