



Debating Guidelines

A formal debate usually involves three groups: one supporting a resolution (proposing team), one opposing the resolution (opposing team), and those who are judging the quality of the evidence and arguments.

Adapted from: <https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk01dK25yxc2srzXTwr8Hfdfn>

Steps:

- **Introduce the topic**
All debates start with a topic, or resolution. Be sure that the learners understand the issue and any specialized vocabulary that goes with it.
- **Assign the Proposition and the Opposition**
There are two sides to any debate. One group will argue for and another against the resolution. Divide the class into three groups, with three students in each group. The third group will serve as the judges, deciding on the winners at the conclusion of the debate.
- **Give Time for Research**
The teams will need time to research the issue. The teams should anticipate the points the other team could make and consider how to refute them, in preparation for the rebuttal. Decide on a date for the debate.
- **Keep Track of Time**
The speakers follow a set order. Elect a chairperson to welcome the audience, state the topic under debate, and to keep strict control of the time.
- **Make a Judgment**
The winner is the team that has presented the strongest case. However, as long as the learners communicated clearly, used good grammar, and had good pronunciation, the grades should then reflect this success.

Adapted from: <https://busyteacher.org/7245-conducting-class-debate-essential-tips.html>



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Proceedings:

While there are different versions of proceedings for debates, below is a simple suggestion for the classroom.

- First Speaker of the Proposition: Two minutes to introduce the topic.
- First Speaker of the Opposition: Two minutes to state the opponent's viewpoint
"It is often said"
"Many people assume that my esteemed opponent believes that"
- Second Speaker of the Proposition: Two minutes to disagree
"On the contrary"
"On the other hand"
- Second Speaker of the Opposition: Two minutes to explain position (using evidence)
"For example"
"This is why"
- Break for Rebuttal Preparation: Both teams receive two minutes to prepare a rebuttal and summary. The order of speech is now reversed.
- Opposition Summary/Rebuttal: Two minutes to conclude (including thesis)
"Therefore"
"As a result"
"Thus it can be seen"
- Proposition Summary/Rebuttal: Two minutes to conclude (including thesis)
"Therefore"
"As a result"
"Thus it can be seen"

Adapted from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/fast-debate-formats-for-the-classroom->