



The Young
Leaders Plastic
Challenge

DEBATING SKILLS AND RULES





WHAT IS A DEBATE?

- Formal and persuasive public speaking
- Is usually improvised or researched
- Investigates two sides of an issue
- Usually nuanced and refined- not polarized
- Arguments are evaluated and weighed by audience or judge.
- A debatable proposition is considered to be one of three types: fact, value, or policy.





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HOW WOULD PARTICIPATING IN A DEBATE HELP US?

- Encourages independent thinking
- Promotes critical thinking and analytical reasoning abilities
- Effective communication skills
- Builds confidence and self esteem
- Encourages interpersonal skills
- Team building skills
- And we all love a good argument





HOW DOES IT WORK?

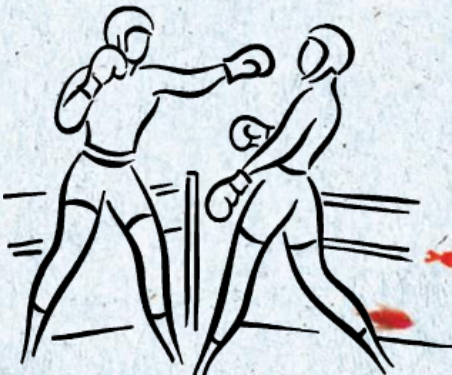
- A Debate takes over a topic or a proposition.
- The Proponents and the Opponents debate on the topic
- A proposition is the statement that is being debated. It is stated affirmatively and conclusively, much in the manner of a scientific hypothesis.





THREE STEPS FOR A DEBATE

- First an opening proposition is made by both the proponent and the opponent regarding their stand and take on the topic being debated
- Rebuttal session
- Concluding remarks or session by both the proponent and the opponent





THREE IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Content – what we say and the arguments and examples we use
- Style –How we say it , the language and the voice we use
- Strategy -How well we engage with the topic, respond to other people's arguments and structure what we say.





POINTS TO NOTE WHILE REBUTTING

- Use Logic- Cannot say other side is wrong without showing or stating the right way.
- Pick only important points for rebutting
- Avoid personal reflections – play to the audience whom you are trying to convince .
- Techniques – Quote only examples relevant to the topic . Rebuttal should not only consist of examples , it should also try to raise a point of argument
- Need for clarity of thought and logic – listen carefully , don't jump to argue . Organize the rebuttal for each argument one by one





DEBATE PROTOCOL

- Respect all members of the debate
- Do not make personal attacks or comments
- While debating as a team ,refrain from talking to your partner while debate is in process – pass notes only.
- Take copious notes during debate and number your points of argumentation and rebuttal.
- Speak clearly and confidently
- Make eye contact!
- Do not have cue cards – Do not read from cards
- Voice modulation very important
- Avoid nervous habits
- Avoid use of big words
- Most important - Always quote valid source when mentioning any statistics or data . should not quote data out of thin air just to win the point . Marks will be deducted for this





HOW WILL THIS DEBATE BE ORGANIZED ?

- Youth show their interest in participation by filling in their nomination form .
- This form is available on the website
- Based on the details provided in the nomination form ,participants will be selected
- Top 5 will be selected
- There will be 2 rounds of debate
- Final face off will be held between the winners of the first 2 rounds
- Top winning team will be given certificate and prizes





PROTOCOL TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE FIRST ROUND – SHORT LISTING ROUND

- A team consists of – one proponent and an opponent
- Each Debate will be allocated a total of 10 minutes
- One minute will be given to each team for introduction and conclusion.
- Proponent team will consist of 2 participant , one of whom will give the introductory speech and one will give the concluding remark.
- The proponents and opponents of each team will get a 3 ½ minute of rebuttal time .
- The same process will be followed for the opponent team as well .
- One Debate session will take a total of 10 minutes .
- 4 time keepers will keep time for 4 participants . Participant will be penalized if they take up extra time from their team mate's time.



FINAL FACE-OFF

- One on One Debate – There will be one proponent and One opponent – They will be notified in advance regarding their stance for the debate.
- The same format of a total of 10 minutes – 1 minute each for intro and conclusion, 3 ½ minute each for rebuttal time.
- Top 2 final debaters will be awarded certificate and prize.





EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Organization and clarity
- Use of arguments
- Use of examples and facts
- Use and response to cross examination
- Presentation style
- Knowledge of the material
- Respect

