



Debating SA Incorporated

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Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia

Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

Dos:

- ✓ Say "Good evening Mr/Madam Chairman" at the beginning of your speech.
- ✓ Stand in front of the Chairman and Timekeeper when you speak.
- ✓ Sit well, avoiding slouching. Let your body language show alert focus, intelligent and respectful interest and awareness.
- ✓ Wait for the Chairman to introduce you before getting up to speak.
- ✓ Applaud each speaker.
- ✓ Use cue cards and handle them with confidence. Make sure they are organised, easy to read and **numbered**.
- ✓ Remain quiet while other debaters are presenting their speeches and the Adjudicator is writing.
- ✓ Wear school uniform or neat casual clothes to the debate.
- ✓ Shake the hands of your opposition after the debate.
- ✓ Ensure that your first and last name is written on the **Official Score Sheet** and **Chairman's Sheet**.
- ✓ Arrive ten minutes prior to the commencement of the debate.
- ✓ Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- ✓ Have fun.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Address the Chairman as "Chairperson".
- ✗ Address the adjudicator. The adjudicator is a member of the audience.
- ✗ Use a team line in your speech.
- ✗ Use sheets of paper for your notes.
- ✗ Use mannerisms that will be distracting to the audience.
- ✗ Interrupt other speakers while they speak unless the rules of the debate allow this.
- ✗ Converse with the audience or ask the audience's opinions during your speech.
- ✗ Use personal attacks towards the opposition in your speech.
- ✗ Shout.
- ✗ Include false evidence or facts in your speech.
- ✗ Use inappropriate language.