



Debating SA Incorporated

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Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

Dos:

- ✓ Say "Good evening Mr Chairman" if the Chairman is a male or "Good evening Madam Chairman" if the Chairman is a female.
- ✓ Introduce the topic.
- ✓ Stand in front of the Chairman and Timekeeper.
- ✓ Applaud each speaker.
- ✓ Use cue cards.
- ✓ Wait for the Chairman to introduce you.
- ✓ Ensure that your rebuttal comes before your main arguments.
- ✓ Ensure that you are prepared when the Chairman introduces you.
- ✓ Maintain an adequate level of eye contact with the audience.
- ✓ Remain quiet while other debaters are presenting their speeches and the Adjudicator is writing.
- ✓ Wear school uniform or neat casual clothes.
- ✓ Shake the hands of your opposition after the debate.
- ✓ Ensure that both the Adjudicator and Chairman have a copy of your first and last names, and school.
- ✓ Arrive ten minutes prior to the commencement of the debate.
- ✓ Have fun.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Say your name during your speech.
- ✗ Use sheets of paper.
- ✗ Dance or sing if it is likely to be distracting.
- ✗ Interrupt other speakers unless it is a Point of Information debate.
- ✗ Exaggerate to an obvious level.
- ✗ Panic if the final bell rings and you have not concluded your speech.
- ✗ Converse with the audience.
- ✗ Use personal attacks towards the opposition in your rebuttal.
- ✗ Shout.
- ✗ Include false evidence in your speech.
- ✗ Ask for the audience's opinions during your speech.
- ✗ Do or say anything before, during, or after the debate that will make another person feel uncomfortable or upset.
- ✗ Use inappropriate language.