



Debating SA Incorporated

PO Box 10404 Gouger Street, Adelaide Business Centre SA 5000

P: 0406 982 012 | F: 8219 0070 | E: enquiries@debatingsa.com.au | W: www.debatingsa.com.au

Speech Structure Fact Sheet

<p>Introduction</p> <p>There are several ways to introduce a speech, but all ways must contain a brief acknowledgment of the Chairman, audience, the topic and the team case. This can be achieved at a basic level by breaking the introduction into 3 key statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Good evening statement2. Topic statement3. Team case statement <p>Examples of the above:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Good evening Mr/Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.2. The topic for tonight is "That every household should have a compost bin".3. We the affirmative team believe that every person needs to play a role in protecting our environment.	All speakers
<p>Rebuttal</p> <p>In a debate rebuttal is very important. Speakers must use rebuttal to refute and cast doubt upon the validity of the opposition's case in favour of their own, while at the same time convincing the audience that their own case is in fact beyond reproach and attacks made by the opposition are invalid.</p> <p>Some things to note with regard to rebuttal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Refuting the opposition's case cannot be achieved by mere assertions. Speakers must provide evidence of the flaws in the opposition's core argument.2. Speakers must be sure to refute the opposition's points in order of importance to allow adequate time for each point.3. Rebuttal must be handled in a sportsmanlike manner. Only the arguments may be attacked, not the speakers. Adjudicators frown upon personal attacks and will penalise heavily for breaches.4. It is important for the speakers to refute only that which is actually stated by the opposition. To rearrange what a person has said or presume in advance that the opposition will give a particular argument is seen to be bad form.	Not first affirmative, but all other speakers

<p>Definition</p> <p>Each team needs to have a clear idea of what the topic means before entering into a debate.</p> <p>During the debate, the first speakers of each team must make sure the audience knows what the key words of the topic mean exactly as their team understands them. This is achieved with a definition.</p> <p>A debate cannot take place without a very clear definition. This is best achieved with the use of a statement to define the whole topic rather than define each single word separately.</p> <p>Where possible, debaters should refer to one or more dictionaries when formulating a definition. Where there are multiple definitions, it is best to go for the most obvious definition of a topic.</p> <p>Debaters should aim for a definition that is fair to both the affirmative and negative sides.</p> <p>An example definition is given below.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"We see the topic "That every household should have a compost bin" to mean that it would be better for the health of our planet if the occupants of every human dwelling took responsibility for their own waste by recycling their scraps into fertiliser for the soil."</i></p> <p>It is the job of the first negative speaker to either agree with the definition given by the affirmative speaker,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"We the negative team agree with the definition given."</i></p> <p>or provide a better/fairer definition.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"We the negative team believe that the definition given by the affirmative team is unfair and would like to use this definition instead..."</i></p>	<p>First speakers</p>
<p>Argument Allocation/Team Split</p> <p>The first speakers of each team need to give a brief rundown of their team's arguments to give the opposition some warning of what is to come. The team must then stick to this rundown, as given by the first speaker on their team. Teams which do not do this may lose points for poor form.</p> <p>It is a good idea for the second speaker to remind the audience of the main points of the first speaker to bring the case as a whole to light.</p>	<p>First and second speakers</p>

<p>Arguments</p> <p>The first and second speakers of each team should present a number of arguments divided among them equally. Where possible, each speaker should have all strong arguments. If weaker arguments must be used, a speech should consist of a mixture of strong and weak arguments.</p> <p>Each argument needs to make a point either for the case of the team in question and have evidence backing it up.</p> <p>The third speakers of each team shouldn't present any new arguments. It is important for third speakers to instead focus on rebutting their opposition's arguments and summarising their team's case.</p> <p>When presenting arguments, speakers should use signposting to tell the audience where they are in their speech. For example:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"Now to my first point... This is because..."</i>, <i>"Now to my second point..."</i>, <i>"finally..."</i></p> <p>Other signposting beginnings include; firstly, secondly, thirdly, an example of this, for instance.</p>	<p>First and second speakers</p>
<p>Summary</p> <p>The first and second speaker should round off their speeches with a brief summary of their main points to remind the audience of their case.</p> <p>For the third speaker, however, a clear summary of the core arguments of the team is required to clearly and concisely explain the entire case of the team and convince the audience once and for all that their team is right.</p>	<p>Brief for first and second speaker, thorough for third speaker.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>The conclusion is very important as it is the last thing the audience hears of your speech and should be the most remembered. It should be strong, clear and concise.</p>	<p>All speakers</p>