



Debating SA Incorporated

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Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

Dos:

- ✓ Wear school uniform or neat casual clothes to the debate.
- ✓ Arrive ten minutes prior to the commencement of the debate.
- ✓ Go to the Information Desk upon arrival to confirm the location of your debate.
- ✓ Ensure that your first and last name is written on the **Official Score Sheet** and **Chairman's Sheet**.
- ✓ Stand in front of the Chairman and Timekeeper when you speak.
- ✓ Wait for the Chairman to introduce you before getting up to speak.
- ✓ Be ready to get up straight away when your name is called by the Chairman.
- ✓ Applaud each speaker.
- ✓ Number your cue cards.
- ✓ Remain quiet while other debaters are presenting their speeches and the Adjudicator is writing.
- ✓ Listen to the feedback from the adjudicator.
- ✓ Prepare a "thank you" speech.
- ✓ Shake the hands of your opposition after the debate.
- ✓ Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- ✓ Have fun.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Address the adjudicator individually. The adjudicator is a member of the audience.
- ✗ Use sheets of paper for your notes.
- ✗ Use mannerisms that will be distracting to the audience.
- ✗ Interrupt other speakers while they are speaking.
- ✗ Use personal attacks towards the opposition in your speech.
- ✗ Shout.
- ✗ Use inappropriate language.
- ✗ Include false evidence or facts in your speech.
- ✗ Turn around and look at the Chairman or opposition when speaking.
- ✗ Use 'um' and 'er'.
- ✗ Interrupt the adjudicator during feedback.