



Speaking V Debate

THINGS TO LEARN TO BE
A GOOD DEBATER

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UNIT 1

AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE TEAM

What is argument?

Building an argument is a challenging but worth a try. When we make argument, simultaneously we make a claim that we want others to believe. For example, if you see that curly hair shampoo does better than normal shampoo and you conclude that people with curly hairs need special hair treatment, that's called a claim. However in argument, you will need more than a claim. There are other factors to consider, including evidences and reasons. You need to convince audiences that your claim are strong enough by mentioning reasons and evidences, example:

"This House would ban abstention in presidential election"

No	Questions	Affirmative	Negative
1	What do I think about the motion? (Claim)	Abstention in presidential election is not acceptable.	It's legal to avoid voting in presidential election
2	Why do I think about this? (Reasons)	Because abstention is a violation of civic duty	Everyone has freedom of choice as basic human right
3	How do I know this is the case? (Evidence)	As citizens, we have civic duties to abide by. These duties are important to construct better society and welfare. In addition, we should remember how many people fight for voting rights. Therefore we should not diminish their efforts.	Abstention is a free choice. Everyone has a basic human right to vote a president or not. As a democracy nation, we should respect human right. Banning abstention means forcing citizens to vote, meaning they are pushed to do something they are not willing to. It basically violates an idea of freedom of choice.
4	What does an opponent team likely say to argue my claims?	Some people may think that abstention in presidential election is a freedom of choice. Therefore, they may vote or not.	As a citizen, they consider civil duty as an underlying reason for the ban. Good citizen must take a part in promoting social welfare. By voting for president, they have contributed their voice to society.

5	What do I want the audiences to think?	Abstention in presidential election is an attempt to avoid civic duty.	Everyone has a freedom of choice, either they vote or not.
6	What reasons and opinions can I share to sway audiences' opinions?	<p>If we allow abstention in presidential election, we will let voter apathy to grow even bigger, which eventually creates vicious cycle of isolation.</p> <p>Those who avoid contributing their voices will be unheard and ignored due to lack of voices.</p> <p>Being left ignored and unheard, it eventually grows their apathy to government and once again continue to not voting for representatives as resentment.</p>	<p>Those who left ignored and unheard is a disadvantaged group. They only become target of politicians to win their positions.</p> <p>Once again, they only become victims of political campaign. Why bother voting if subjected as political targets?</p> <p>In UK, the labour party lost againsts the right party because it did not win majority's votings. As a result, the ideology adjusts with majority.</p>

Activity 1

Answer the following questions under the motion

“This House Believes that Smartphone in Schools is Harming Educational System”

No	Questions	Affirmative	Negative
1	What do I think about the motion? (Claim)		
2	Why do I think about this? (Reasons)		

3	How do I know this is the case? (Evidence)		
4	What does an opponent team likely say to argue my claims?		
5	What do I want the audiences to think?		
6	What reasons and opinions can I share to sway audiences' opinions?		

Activity 2. Now, let's prepare for a simulation of debate under the motion of
"This house believes that social network causes low self-esteem"

Sheet 1 - First Group of Affirmative Speaker

- a. For Affirmative speakers, they need to jot down their ideas
- b. For negative speakers, they need to analyze affirmative speakers' arguments by enlisting their points

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. . _____

F. . _____

G. . _____

H. . _____

Sheet 2-. First Group of Negative Speakers

- a. For negative speakers, write down statements that could refute the opponent speakers
- b. For Affirmative speakers, analyze by writing down their arguments for further attack

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. . _____

F. . _____

G. . _____

H. . _____

Sheet 3. Second Group of Negative Speakers

- a. For Affirmative speakers, they need to defend previous affirmative teams by attacking negative team's refutations
- b. For negative speakers, they need to analyze affirmative speakers' arguments to provide further attacks

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. . _____

F. . _____

G. . _____

H. . _____

Sheet 4. Second Group of Negative Speakers

For negative speakers. write down statements that could defend first negative speakers and refute the opponent speakers

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. . _____

F. . _____

G. . _____

H. . _____