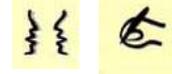


HOW TO PREPARE AND PARTICIPATE IN A DEBATE

Before the debate



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Instructions:

- Choose a **spokesperson**. He or she will have the first word of the debate (same as the other spokesmen) to explain your position and one or two arguments. Likewise, the spokesmen will close the debate with the conclusions.
- Working together, write **an outline** which contains:
 - **Introduction:** Your position in respect to the issue and one or two arguments.
 - Your **arguments:**
 - Write a list with the main arguments to defend your position.
 - Don't forget that you are "playing a role" and it doesn't matter if the arguments you use are not the same as your personal opinions.
 - Think about possible counterarguments and how to refute them.
 - Choose your language carefully. In a debate, we try to avoid slang or informal expressions.
 - **Conclusion(s)** of your arguments.
- **Learn** your arguments well and **rehearse** before the debate in front of a friend, family member, or in front of a mirror.

During the debate

The teacher will act as a moderator. The spokespersons will open the debate in turn. After, you will be able to take part, asking permission to speak. Remember that "**active**" **listening** is just as important as speaking in a debate.

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Advice for speaking during the debate:

- Physical appearance: maintain **correct posture**, use your hands and **gestures** to help express your thoughts.
- When you speak, maintain **eye contact** with your "opponents" and don't look off into the distance or at the teacher the whole time.
- Express yourself clearly and correctly. Try **not** to use **colloquial expressions**.
- Present your arguments **in an orderly fashion**, using good transitions.
- **Don't get nervous** if you're not explaining well. Restate the main argument and start again.
- Defend your arguments with **conviction** without fear of criticism, but show **respect** for the others' opinions.
- **"Actively" listen** to everyone else's opinions – don't just listen.
- Respect someone else's turn to speak and **don't be impatient**.
- **Avoid yelling** to silence the speaker.

REMEMBER that...

- The primary intention of the debate is to be **PERSUASIVE**, or to **CONVINCE** your "**opponents**" with **good arguments**, not to impose your opinion or look down on others.
- The final objective of the debate is to have **THE MOST SUPPORTED CONCLUSIONS**, not to "**win**" the debate.

After the debate

After the debate, **self-evaluate your participation** using the following table

Self-evaluation of your participation in the debate		
Rate each section from 1 to 5		
Preparation before the debate	I prepared my arguments with my partners.	
	I learned the arguments.	
	I rehearsed my part in the debate.	
During the debate	I used my hands and gestures naturally to express myself.	
	I maintained eyecontact with my “oponents”.	
	I expressed my arguments clearly and correctly.	
	I spoke all of my points and rebuttals respectfully.	
	I was able to respond to my “opponents”.	
	I “actively” listened respectfully to everyone’s opinions.	
	I was respectful at all times with my words and reactions.	
TOTAL....	/50	