

What is a DEBATE?

A debate is a team competition where each team argues a certain position on a topic. There are usually three people per team. Each speaker is given a certain role and they have 2-3 minutes to present their case. An example topic is given below:

Topic: We should stop logging Australia's native forests.
Affirmative Team – argues 'YES' to the topic. Negative Team – argues 'NO' to the topic.

The table below outlines the role of each speaker and their team responsibilities:

Affirmative Team	Negative team
<p>1st Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction of team members • Provides a definition of the terminology for the topic (eg. 'logging', 'native') • Introduces first argument • Summarise overall approach of team 	<p>1st Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction of team members • Challenges affirmative first speaker's definitions/interpretation/material • Introduces first argument • Summarise overall approach of team.
<p>2nd Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to what 2nd speaker will be dealing with • Refutes negative first speaker's arguments • Extends team's case by providing more affirmative arguments • Provides a summary of arguments 	<p>2nd Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to what 2nd speaker will be dealing with • Refutes arguments and interpretations of affirmative team • Extends team's case by providing more negative arguments • Provides a summary of arguments
<p>3rd Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to what 3rd speaker will be dealing with • Refutes arguments and interpretations of negative team • May present new arguments • Provides a detailed summary of all the affirmative speakers' arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Speaker • Restates the position of the negative team • Detailed rebuttal of affirmative team's arguments and interpretations • Introduces no new material • Provides a detailed summary of all the negative speakers' arguments

Hints

Debates are assessed in three ways:

- *Matter* – your evidence, definitions and arguments
- *Manner* – your body language, eye contact, volume, tone – your impact on the audience
- *Method* – your team's organisational skills, logical flow of arguments between speakers and your timing.