



Speaker Roles

Year 10 Debating



First Speaker- affirmative

Provides the **team's** definition of the moot and clarifies the position the team will be taking.

Introduces the team members and their arguments.

Devliers 2-3 substantial arguments in support of the moot.

Delivers a short leaders reply in which the teams arguments are restated and the closing statements on the moot are made.



First Speaker- Negative

Accepts, challenges or expands the definition offered by the affirmative team for the moot.

Introduces the team members and their arguments.

Rebuts the points made by the previous speaker (First Person Affirmative).

Devliers 2-3 substantial arguments in support of the moot.

Delivers a short leaders reply in which the teams arguments are restated and the closing statements on the moot are made.



Second Speakers- Affirmative and Negative

Rebuts the previous speaker (First Speakers Negative and Second Speaker Affirmative)

Defends the rebuttal made against their speakers arguments.

Delivers 2-3 substantial points in favor of their teams argument.



Third Speakers- Affirmative and Negative

Rebuts all previous speakers arguments.

Defends their teams arguments.

Possibly delivers one substantial point in favor of their teams argument.



Leaders Summary/Reply

Delivered by the first or second speaker of the team.

Summarizes the key points for their teams arguments.

Describes the “areas of clash” for the debate and explains why their team presented a more persuasive argument in these areas.

New material is not permitted in these summaries.



The Debating Structure- Who goes when?

Debating follows a rigid traditional structure, where members from each team take turns delivering their argument. The format for this is as follows:

First Speaker- Affirmative

First Speaker- Negative

Second Speaker- Affirmative

Second Speaker- Negative

Third Speaker- Affirmative

Third Speaker- Negative

Leaders Reply- Negative

Leaders reply- Affirmative



The Chairperson

Each debate is controlled by a chairperson. The chairperson's role is to introduce the debate topic in an impartial manner and to liaise with the adjudicators to keep the debate moving..

After each team member speaks, the adjudicators often need time to consider the arguments and make notes. They will communicate with the chairperson when they are ready to begin again. The chairperson will stand up and introduce each speaker before they deliver their debate.