

# Debate Speech Structures

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Some Useful Tips

# The General Structure

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All debating speeches follow the logical beginning-middle-end pattern. A general pattern you can follow looks something like this:

- Introduction
- Rebuttal
- Arguments
- Conclusion

# The Introductions

## 1 | The First Speaker

- Introduces their team and the overall position of the arguments.
- Defines the moot.
- Explains how each team member will argue in favor of the overall position.

## 2 | The Second Speaker

- Restates the overall position of the team in relation to the moot.
- Gives the highlights for the first speakers argument.
- Explains how they will argue their point.

## 3 | The Third Speaker

- Restates the overall position of the team in relation to the moot.
- Gives the highlights for the first and second speakers arguments.
- Explains how they will argue their point.

# The Body Section

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It is up to you how you choose to organise your points in the middle of your speech.

Once you have offered your rebuttal, you will launch into your arguments.

Think about the most logical way to organise your points. Consider if there is an order that makes the most sense and will have the most impact.

## The Conclusion

At the end of your speech, you really want to pinpoint what was important and effective in your arguments.

Give the highlights, restate some of your most important facts/stats/points and leave the audience thinking that you are a clever individual who really knows what they are talking about.

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# Be Persuasive

Remember, the idea is to persuade the audience and adjudicator that your argument is the right one. Some ways you can do this are...

- Using a mixture of arguments built on ethos, logos and pathos.
  - Using a range of stats, facts, figures and research.
  - Be explicit. Don't skimp on the details of information or situations you are using.
  - Use language that is strong and authoritative (think about word connotations for this).
  - Be inclusive. You want the audience on your side so include or appeal to them in your argument by using the appropriate personal pronouns.
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