

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Ashline

Notes on Debate

1. Criteria for debate performance and evaluation
 - a. Content
 - b. Strategy
 - c. Style
2. Rules of procedure
 - a. First Proposition Speaker
 - b. Rebuttal by Opposition Speaker
 - c. Rebuttal to Rebuttal by First Proposition Speaker
3. Chairman or MC of debate manages introduction and summarizes content throughout. Also the Chairman or MC manages disputes.
4. Timing—An average of five minutes per person including the Chairman or MC for the entire debate.
5. Difference between Public Speaking and Debate—You have to be flexible and respond to the arguments of the other team, not simply present your own viewpoint. Think on your feet—quickly deal with unforeseen arguments. Anticipate counterarguments in advance and incorporate into your notes.
6. Do careful research. Find high quality and reliable sources. Use notes and speak in an extemporaneous fashion from the notes. Do not read to the class.
7. Introduce and summarize every proposition and argument or rebuttal put forward.
8. Use repetition to drive your points home.
9. Use good body language, gestures and eye contact with the class and with team members.
10. Incorporate humor.
11. Do not be overly formal.