

Rules and Methods for Conducting Oxford Debates with Class Participation

<p>1. Chairperson: Controls the debate; is neutral: sort of judge.</p> <p>2. Proposer: Speaks for the motion; a sort of lawyer arguing for the motion.</p> <p>3. Opposer: Speaks against the motion; a sort of lawyer arguing against the motion.</p> <p>4. Proposer's Secunder: Second speaker for the motion; helps proposer.</p> <p>5. Opposer's Secunder: Second speaker against the motion; helps opposer.</p> <p>Motion: The topic being debated; the wording is important.</p> <p>How proceed in a debate:</p> <p>A) No. 1 Reads the motion No. 2 Speaks for the motion No. 3 Speaks against the motion No. 4 Speaks for the motion No. 5 Speaks against the motion</p> <p>B) Then after No. 2-5 have spoken:</p> <p>I. Chairperson opens debate to the floor (rest of the class)</p> <p>II. Individual asks questions of speakers 2-5 only</p> <p>III. when chairperson says they can speak.</p> <p>IV. Individual stands up and starts by saying, "Mr. Chairman/Ms. Chairwoman."</p> <p>V. Individuals speak carefully. No insulting names, must say things like, "A previous speaker" or the Proposer's secunder says..."</p> <p>VI. Keep the debate impersonal, attack ideas not people.</p> <p>VII. Individuals can make statements or ask speakers No. 2-5 to explain something. Speakers 2-5 answer.</p>	<p>C)</p> <p>I. After the class has nothing else to say or ask, or if it is time for the bell, the Chairperson closes the debate to the floor (the class).</p> <p>II. Chairperson asks the Proposer to briefly sum up his/her main idea.</p> <p>III. Chairperson asks the Opposer to briefly sum up his/her main idea.</p> <p>IV. Chairperson then reads the motion to the class (to make sure they understand it.)</p> <p>D) The Chairperson stands up and asks:</p> <p>I. Those for the motion to put up their hands (chairperson counts and writes down the number).</p> <p>II. Those against the motion to put up their hands (chairperson counts and writes down the number).</p> <p>III. Those who are neutral/ abstaining (can't make up their minds) (chairperson counts and writes down the number).</p> <p>IV. Chairperson then says whether the motion is carried (proposer win) or defeated (opposer win) by saying "I declare this motion – reads motion – carried or defeated."</p> <p>Remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstainers, no matter how numerous, can never win. • Chairperson has casting vote in the event of a tie. • Vote on the ideas heard in the room, not on what you know from elsewhere.
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