

# **MOSSLANDS DEBATING**

# **SOCIETY**

## **HELP BOOKLET**

### **CONTENTS:**

1. *RULES*
2. *SPEAKING ORDER AND TIMES*
3. *STRUCTURE*
4. *CONTENT AND STYLE*
5. *REBUTTAL*
6. *POINT OF INFORMATION*
7. *DEFINING A MOTION*
8. *SUMMARY SPEECH*
9. *SCORING SYSTEM*

# **RULES**

## **1. Role of Chair/Timekeeper – The chairperson keeps the debate organised whilst the timekeeper keeps an eye on the time!**

1. These people can still be part of the society and plays a key role in the debate structure and keep things organised during the speeches

## **2. Conduct during debates – you must be silent and attentive AT ALL times**

1. If you're not silent during a speech, you could lose points! To win a debate, you need the most points from the scoring system and if you aren't paying attention during the debate, you'll lose points!

## **3. Listen to the other team's points – make your arguments stronger by arguing against the opposing team's points!**

1. Your argument is like a wall, so is the other teams. If you get to knock the other teams wall down, use their blocks to build your own up! Make your points strong and make their points look weak

## **4. Help each other out – if someone doesn't feel that confident at speaking, don't worry about it! Help them out and boost their confidence**

1. Don't force people to do things they don't want to do, encourage them, get them involved, but don't force anyone to do things they don't want to do!

## **5. Make notes on everyone's points – it will help you out**

1. If you forget what they say, your 'wall' will look weak. You want your 'wall' to be the strongest it can be, if it's not strong, it's no use!

# Speaking Order and Times

In the debates we do in school, all speeches will be three minutes' long and each speaker has to have an effective amount of content to score them the points. If you don't get the points, you might not win the debate!

There is something called protected time on the first three speeches for each team. This is the first and last 15 seconds of their speech where there are no interruptions at all. If the speaker is interrupted during this time, points will be deducted.

Summary speeches have no interruptions at all and they have three minutes to speak freely without being interrupted.

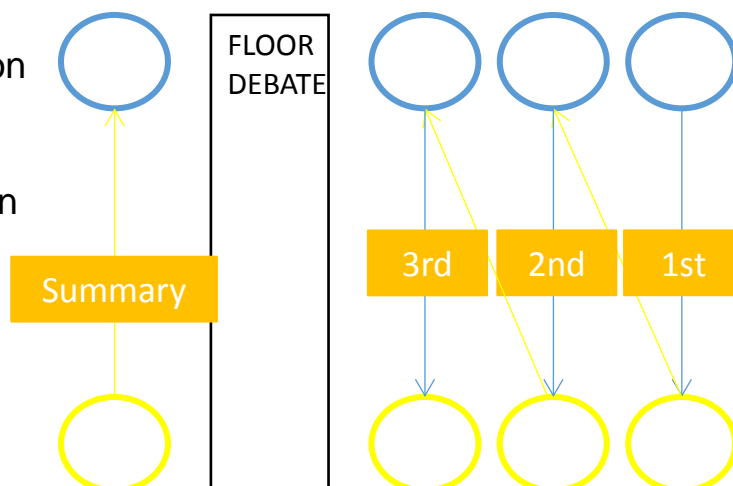
But without preparation time, what's the point in having three minute speeches? Each team has 15 minutes of preparation time where no phones are allowed! You have to use your own memory and think about the effects!

Blue =

Proposition

Yellow =

Opposition



# Structure

To structure a point, you need to use PEEL like you would in English, except this time, you need to use a linking statement to link it to the motion.

**Point** – this is similar to the headline of a newspaper, this needs to be bold, easy to find in your speech and very clear for all to hear!

**Evidence** – this can be made up! During a debate, the judge won't check the facts, if they sound reasonable and true, they will be taken as reasonable and true! If you can't think of one, make it up!

**Explain** – this is key in your speech. Make your point valid by saying why it is important and why it is a key part in the motion for debate!

**Link** – now, how does all of this link back to the motion first?

To structure an argument is quite different. You need to remember quite a few things in this one!

## Speeches 2 and 3 both and Speech 1 for opposition

Introduction	Hello, my name is ..... And I am on the ..... and today my points are.....
Rebuttal	Before I get into my points, I'd like to start with some rebuttal, you said..... But I disagree because of this .....
Argument 1	Now onto my main point which is ..... and to back my point up, .....,
Argument 2	Now onto my second point which is ..... and to back my point up .....
Conclusion	Now to conclude, I'd like to say that .....
Summary	To summarise, my points have been ..... And I've been ..... for the .....

### Speech 1 for proposition

Introduction	Hello, my name is ..... And I am on the ..... and today my points are.....
Defining the motion	Before I get into my points, I'd like to start with what my team define the motion as. We define ..... As .....
Argument 1	Now onto my main point which is ..... and to back my point up, .....,
Argument 2	Now onto my second point which is ..... and to back my point up .....
Conclusion	Now to conclude, I'd like to say that .....
Summary	To summarise, my points have been ..... And I've been ..... for the .....

### Summary Speeches

Introduction	Hello, my name is ..... And I am on the ..... and today I am summarising the debate for you
Rebuttal	My team said this ..... and this is good because..... however your team said this and that is a contradictory statement because speaker 1 said the opposite.....
Conclusion	Now to conclude, I'd like to say that .....
Summary	To summarise, my points have been ..... And I've been ..... for the .....

# **Content and Style**

Your content should be based on who this motion will affect. Will it affect students? Will it affect the law? Will it affect the government?

All of these questions should be answered during your team's speech. Each speaker should be assigned to of these letters from below and then you should rank them in order of importance and that will decide who speaks in what position! To find out who it affects you should use PLERMS.

**P**olitical – how does this motion effect politics?

**L**egal – does this affect the law?

**E**conomic – is this going to effect the UK/World economy?

**R**eligious/**R**acist – does this effect any religions or races?

**M**oral – is this morally right or morally wrong?

**S**ocial – will this affect the norm of society?

If these aren't discussed in your debate, the judge won't know who the stakeholders are and how or why they're are affected, so they won't be able to judge effectively!

Your style of argument shouldn't be the same with each motion! Change it up and mix it around to suit the type of motion and the position of your speech. Sometimes you can be happy, so sound happy, other times you can be sad, so sound sad! Use a different tone of your voice to emphasise different points. Make some parts of your speech more powerful by just changing the way you sound, make your voice deeper, higher, stronger, louder, quieter, or anything else you can think of to help with your argument and keep it engaging!

# **Rebuttal**

Rebuttal is a short point to counteract what the person directly before you on the opposing team has just said. If you are able to make one of your points better than theirs by knocking theirs down, it's brilliant! If you can use what they have just said against them, it stops them in their tracks and forces them to rethink what they are saying.

Using the 'wall' analogy, if they have just laid a brick, you can still take that off and cement it onto your own just after they have said it.

That's the point of rebuttal. A short, concise and to the point counterargument about what the opposing member has just said.

Remember to keep it short (no more than 45 seconds ideally) and make it powerful!

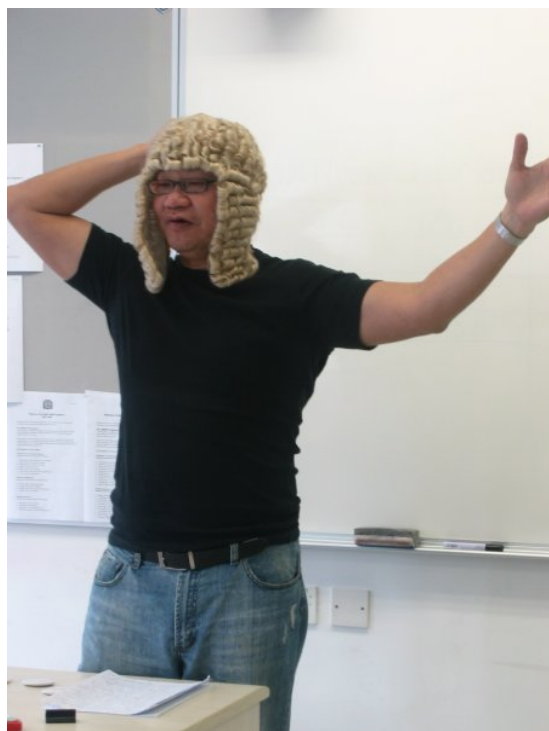
# **Point Of Information (POI)**

This can only be done if you're a member of the team. If you have a point to directly counteract what the opposing team member is saying and it is under ten seconds, then this is your chance!

You have to stand up out of your seat, with one hand displayed in front of you and the other on your head and state 'Point Of Information'. However, you don't need to accept these and nor does the speaker!

If you don't want to take a POI, then don't, all you need to do is say 'No thanks' politely and the person asking for the POI has to sit down. It is best to take at least one POI, however don't get caught up taking it!

If you take a POI and don't know what to say to it, state 'My team member will come onto that shortly' or 'I will answer that shortly' and move on. Don't dwell on not knowing a POI answer, it is better to move on and give yourself time to think than to focus on it straight away!





# **Defining the Motion**

If you are on proposition and you get a vague, unclear motion, this is your chance to swing the debate in your favour.

For example you could have a debate motion of whether all footballers should be paid less.

You could say 'the proposition house believe that ALL professional footballers no matter their skill and ability should be paid on average £50,000 less before tax.'

That statement then says that there will be no exceptions, and that the amount would change depending on the current salary of the footballer and that it would affect the global football market.

If you structure your opening sentence after your introduction like that, you will be able to narrow down what the opposition has to say and limit their planned arguments because they are more likely to talk about higher skilled footballer should be paid more etc. Not only have you done that, but you've also said that this only affects the professional players, not the semi-professional players from a club like Tranmere Rovers!!

# **Summary Speeches**

If you are the summary speaker, you need to summarise the WHOLE debate, both your teams' points and the oppositions points.

The best way to do that is by drawing a grid on two pieces of paper and having a few extra for floor questions and unanswered POIs. The grid should then be labelled something like 'prop 1' and so on, or 'Opp 1' and so on, this way you can keep the headline points in a box and know which person from which team has said it.

As soon as you have got the headline points down, it's time to start thinking about how what your team has said is better. You can do this ONLY by supporting and restating what previous members of the team has said, but remember a summary speaker has 3 minutes protected time and they only need to make sure they make their side look better than the others.

If we go back to the analogy of the 'wall', your summary speaker needs to be the wrecking ball for the other team. So they need to be confident in what they're saying. If they can knock down the entirety of the opposing teams wall, and rebuild their own higher, then that's the best possible outcome!

# **Scoring System**

You will be scored out of fifty points in total. You will be scored in three categories. The numbers for each category may vary, however, the categories remain the same;

Style, Structure and Content

Style is out of 15 points and marked on how you speak, whether you're good to listen to, or boring to listen to, whether or not you sound like you agree with what you're saying or not etc.

Structure is also out of 15 points and is marked on how well structured your argument is. It is marked on whether or not you use PEEL. PLERMS and if the judge can hear your headline points.

Finally, Content is marked out of 20 points and is the most important. The judge marks it on whether or not the content is believable, in the correct order and positioned properly in the team. You are also marked on whether or not your content is strong enough to support and link to the motion of debate.