

AN INTRODUCTION TO DEBATING - RULES

[1] The subject to be debated is presented as a statement. This statement is called the **moot**.

[2] The moot is usually presented as a positive statement, (e.g. “The world is flat”) rather than as a negative statement, (e.g. “The world is not round”).

[3] Two teams debate the moot. Each team has three members.

[4] One team supports the moot. This team is called the **Affirmative** team. The other team speaks against the moot. This team is called the **Negative** team.

[5] Each speaker speaks for **3 minutes**. The leaders speak a second time ('Right of Reply') in summary for a maximum of 1 minute.

[6] Each team member has a set task. The tasks are as follows.

Leader:

- a. Defines (explains) the moot.
- b. Introduces the team members, and mentions their individual topics.
- c. Gives own arguments (which make up about one third of the team's arguments).
- d. Speaks again at the end ('Right of Reply'). Half of this time should be covering the faults of the other team, and the other half highlighting the strengths of your team's case.

Second Speaker:

- a. Rebuttal (attack) of opponent's case (half the time)
- b. Present own arguments.

Third Speaker:

- a. Lots of rebuttal! (Two thirds or more of your time).
- b. Present own arguments.

[7] The affirmative team begins.

[8] Time will kept by the Timekeeper. This starts from the moment the speaker reaches his/her speaking position. One minute before the end the Timekeeper will give one bell. Two bells are to be sounded at the conclusion of the time.

[9] The debate will be judged according to pre-agreed set of criteria. (Use an adjudication sheet.).