

Debating and Argumentation

Dr Samira T. Saeed
Ishik University

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- Argumentation
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- Critical thinking

Definitions

- **Debate:** The process of inquiry and advocacy; the seeking of a reasoned judgment on a proposition.
- **Academic debate** is conducted under the direction of an educational institution to provide educational opportunities for students.

Basics of Debate

- A topic/ resolution/ motion/ proposition that is debatable
- Two people or two teams agree or disagree about a specific topic.
- One team is for the topic and one against it.
- The other team is 'the opponent' (regardless which side you are debating)
- Defend your side of a topic



Debate format

- **Lincoln-Douglas debate**
- **Policy Debate**
- **Karl Popper Debate**

Debate format

Lincoln-Douglas debate: Two individuals involved

Speech order	Time duration
First affirmative speech	8
Cross-examination	3
First negative speech	12
Cross-examination	3
Second affirmative speech	6
Second negative speech	6
Third affirmative speech	4

Debate format

Policy debate: Two two-person teams involved

Speech order	Time duration
First Affirmative Constructive	9
Cross-examination by Second Negative	3
First Negative Constructive	9
Cross-examination by First Affirmative	3
Second Affirmative Constructive	9
Cross-examination by First Negative	3
Second Negative Constructive	9
Cross-examination by Second Affirmative	3
First Negative Rebuttal	6
First Affirmative Rebuttal	6
Second Negative Rebuttal	6
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	6

Debate format

Karl Popper debate: Two teams involved

Speech order	Time duration
Affirmative Constructive	6
First Negative Cross-examination	3
Negative Constructive	6
First Affirmative Cross-examination	3
First Affirmative Rebuttal	5
Second Negative Cross-examination	3
First Negative Rebuttal	5
Second Affirmative Cross-examination	3
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	5
Second Negative Rebuttal	5

Argumentation

- Statement of possible truth
- Supporting your statements
- Explain why the audience should care about the statement



Tips of good debating

- Well preparation
- Research very well
- Understand the topic and your position very well
- Organize your notes
- Read, listen and speak to be a good debater and critical thinker.
- Practice alone or with someone
- Get feedback and make use of it

PPPPP

Preparation and Practice Prevent Poor Performance

Critical Thinking



Critical Thinking

The ability to understand, evaluate and reach a conclusion about issues in accordance with certain criteria by means of observing, raising questions, comparing, checking arguments and logical reasoning.



An essential skill
for debate

Critical Thinking

- Debate teaches critical thinking
- Critical thinking improves the use of information
- Critical thinking enables analysis and evaluation of arguments
- Critical thinking helps making better judgments

Critical Thinkers

Characteristics

- They raise questions and investigate when issues are vague
- They can tell the difference between emotional and logical thinking
- They resort to reliable sources and refer to them
- They care about every aspect of the topic equally
- They do not deviate from the main idea of the topic
- They know when they need more information
- They know that people have different understanding of a certain issue
- They know conclusions can be correct or erroneous

Fact

something which can be proven. It expresses a truth that is reached by consensus which can be found out through observation possessing undisputable of details.

A fact is true no matter what

e.g. 9 is bigger numeral than 8, or words can be nouns or verbs.

Opinion

The expression of one's viewpoints, understanding, ideology or feelings. An opinion can be agreed or disagreed to. An opinion is not always true and cannot be proven.

e.g. Accountancy is a better and most suitable area than media or *Audit* is an easier subject than *Principles of Finance*.

Fact or Opinion?

- Journalism is the only way for success in life
- The earth goes round the sun
- Industry sector is more significant than agriculture
- In accountancy, using a computer is more accurate than a manual use
- In philosophy of ethics 'Deontology' is more suitable than 'Pragmatics'
- The final exam is in February
- I don't like exams
- Yanni is a Greek composer and music producer
- Yanni is known for his music
- Yanni produces more charming music than Enya

References

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