

FAQs for the debating competition

<p>Are the children discussing both sides of the argument (balanced argument) or selecting their own opinion and giving evidence to support this (persuasion)?</p>	<p>This exercise is to encourage the children to discuss the questions with their parents and consider their own opinions and then debate their conclusions.</p>
<p>Will we be told if we are for or against the proposed question or do we decide which way our debate goes?</p>	<p>The "for" speaker speaks in support of the motion for 2 minutes uninterrupted and then the "Against" speaker has two minutes uninterrupted.</p>
<p>Can we clarify whether it is 2 minutes "for" and 2 minutes "against" or a total of 2 minutes in total.</p>	<p>I can confirm that it is 2 minutes "for" and then 2 minutes "against" so 4 minutes in total plus question and answer session to both for and against. The usual format is one speaks "for" followed immediately by one speaking against then questions are directed from the other children to either "for" or "against" speaker. You should allow probably about 10 minutes in total for each school if you are allowing time - plus "turn round" time as well.</p>
<p>Does the "for" start and introduce the motion speaking for 2 mins, then hands over to the "against" who speaks for 2 mins?</p>	<p>After both speakers have done their two minute speeches. The chairman will invite the other schools to put questions to the "for" and "against" speakers whilst they are still standing in their speaking positions. The questions should only be asked on the material contained within the speech they have given. So yes, they will have to answer on the spot without a script. However, this is not about what is right and wrong but more - can you give a plausible answer within a reasonably swift response time. You might like to prepare a few fall back answers.</p>
<p>The 2 children who are speaking, I am assuming one is for and one is against?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Can people interrupt with questions?</p>	<p>No – questions can only be asked in the question time slot. No interruptions during the 2 minute prepares speech.</p>
<p>At what point are the questions asked by other schools to our other 4 members?</p>	<p>The other 4 members will not be asked questions, they will be the ones that have to listen to speeches from other schools and compose questions to ask them. The motion is the same for all schools so you may wish to prepare a few questions which could be adapted to information from the speeches.</p>
<p>Will they stay together as a team?</p>	<p>You will all sit together as a team but the two speech givers will be invited to the front to speak. The chairman will draw lots for the order of schools. You may wish to prepare pupils in the event that they are drawn to go first. There are both advantages and disadvantages to this slot</p>

Can parents attend?	The capacity of the venue limits the number attending so usually the team of 6 plus teacher and helpers (who may be parents).
Does it have to be from memory?	You can script it, or use aids, it does not have to be from memory. You can use flash cards, or even get an auto script for an ipad - I use a freebie one which is quite useful. The important thing to remember is that if they read, a script, it can be difficult to make eye contact with your audience and you need the speakers to make the audience believe what are saying.
How does the marking work?	The majority of marks will be given to the quality of the speeches. Points will be awarded for structure of the speech, content - palatable presentation of facts arguments. Presentation - clarity of speaker, engagement with the audience. Marks will also be awarded to the Q&A team. Relevance of questions. Relevance of answers given and speed of response.
After the "4" minutes of speaking, are the other children for the school able to answer the questions also?	No – only the speakers give answers.
Can children use visuals/ICT to present?	Unfortunately visuals/ICT cannot be used as setting up may be problematic in the different venues.
Can you provide a risk assessment for the venue?	Visit Leaders should plan and manage the debating competition visit as they would any other visit and assess the risk around the journey and the supervision and safeguarding of the children with reference to behavioural and medical needs. As this is a debating competition, County/District Council offices are a venue and neither risk assessment or provider statements are required. Please select Venue Only when planning the visit on Evolve.