

Taking part in a debate

When you take part in a debate your objective is to gain the support of those listening to you. It is therefore very important to present your arguments clearly and with conviction.

On the CD you can listen to extended versions of the examples given below.



1 Stating the issue at stake and your standpoint

- Remind those who are listening to you of **both** sides of the issue being discussed.
*We all know that there are people who feel strongly about...
Some consider that... while others...
Arguments have existed for many years about... /There are those in favour of...*
- Make it very clear which side of the debate you are defending.
*I intend to show you that.../I am convinced that...
or if you are debating in a team:
We strongly believe that... /We are convinced that...*

2 Introducing your arguments

- Try and mention the opposing argument and then show that it is not true.
*Many people think that... is not important, but in fact it is essential because...
You may think that... but on the contrary...*

3 Answering your opponents' arguments

- It is important to show your opponent that you have heard his/her argument before continuing with yours.
So you think that... is a waste of... but you haven't thought of some of the reasons...
- Using interrogative negative forms adds conviction to your arguments.
Don't you think that it would be better...?
- Giving examples makes your arguments sound more convincing.
The easiest way to see this point is by remembering what happened to... a few years ago...

4 Concluding

- Remind everyone of the issue, of your standpoint and make a list of your different arguments.
*This debate is to decide whether or not...
We firmly believe that... because... and... . What's more,...*