

POINTERS FOR OBSERVATION OF THE DEBATE

Content

- Definitions,
- General and specific knowledge (facts, quotations, statistics, examples, anecdotes, analogies, documentation).
- Adequate, accurate, relevant, significant
- Appropriate and appealing
- Originality and insight

Analysis/Organisation

- Focus,
- Introduction, development, transitions, conclusion, summarisations.
- Penetrating analysis and sound, logical reasoning.
- Internally consistent and coordinated with colleagues.
- Defense of arguments and anticipation of counter-arguments.
- Recognition of fallacies

Delivery

Voice: Rate, pitch, quality, strength, modulation.

Articulation: Enunciation, expression, control (including pauses), inflection, distracting accent.

Language: Grammar, English, vocabulary; clarity, fluency, effectiveness.

Department: Sharp, natural, purposeful, integrated and collected.

Bodily action: stance, posture, gestures, eye contact, facial expression.

Projection of Personality

- Warm or callous?
- Natural or affected?
- Confident or insecure? (Poise)
- Arrogant or apologetic?
- Solicitous or antagonistic?
- Credibility - convincing? Plausible, possible or beyond belief?
- Intelligent or dull?
- Collected or flustered?
- Sincere or manipulative?
- Mature or irresponsible?
- Concerned or indifferent?

Debating Skills

- Familiarity and knowledge of debate rules: effectively used, few infractions
- Power of observation: attentive listener, accurate note-taker.
- Propaganda and persuasive powers: humour and irony, emotional appeals.

- Rebuttal: identification of issues, effective adaptations, intelligent concessions, turning points to own use, telling attacks, adequate defence of own arguments.
- Rhetoric and propaganda devices.

In Cross-examination Debating

Cross-examination:

- Short, well-worded questions
- Organised series of questions
- No speech-making or arguing
- Valuable admissions elicited
- Courtesy, respect for witness
- Control of time and witness
- Fair but telling questions

Answering Questions:

- Direct, honest answers
- Skilful responses
- No questions in reply
- Reasonable qualifications
- Co-operative and pleasant
- No stalling or time wasting
- Sound understanding of case

In Parliamentary Debating

Heckling:

- Infrequent but effective
- Ability to handle hecklers
- Intelligent use of points
- Effective use of rules
- Accepts points at appropriate times in speech

Debating Weaknesses

Improper Role-Playing
 Inappropriate Conduct
 Objectionable Language
 Personal Attack on Other Debater
 Falsified Evidence
 Fabricated Evidence
 Failure to Substantiate
 New Arguments in Rebuttal

Irrelevance
 Unnecessary Repetition
 Reading of Speech
 Memorisation of Speech
 Unfair Tactics
 Teamwork
 Prompting Colleague
 Poor Attitude