

ESU SKILLS GUIDE



You can use either a phone timer or a stopwatch during a speech to keep track of your timing. Practise speaking within the allotted time.

Make arguments using REAL

REAL is a system developed by the ESU to help debaters structure each individual argument in a speech:

Reason	One of the arguments why we should agree with your team's side of the motion.
Evidence	Give some facts or examples that support your team's reason.
Analysis	Show us exactly how your team's evidence supports your team's reason.
Link	Link everything back to why we should agree with your team's side.

For example in 'This House would abolish the UN':

Reason	The UN has not stopped wars.
Evidence	War in the Balkans and in Lebanon.
Analysis	The UN took far too long to act in both cases and, even when they did, they did not do much. There is just too much disagreement between members.
Link	The UN has not created peace, one of its main aims - so we should abolish this failed institution.

#esufestivalofspeaking www.esu.org/festivalofspeaking E: festival@esu.org



Use 30 seconds at the start of her speech to rebut the point about people ignoring the UN, using facts she has prepared.

Lily's main points about UN peacekeepers and non-violent debate can both be used to rebut Marvin's 'Peace' point, so she could move these to be her first two points and flag to the audience that they are also rebuttal on 'Peace'.

Make her third point about aid reducing terror, pointing out again that it rebuts the other side.

Another way of delivering rebuttal is a simple list:

"I have two main points in my speech; the effect on the economy and the impact on female participation in the labour market. But first, I have three points of rebuttal.

Firstly, James said "....." he is wrong because "....."

Secondly, he then contradicted himself when he said both "....." and "....." in his speech, they cannot both be true.

And finally, he misunderstood my partner's point about "....." when he said "....."

Points of Information (POIs)

Points of Information (along with rebuttal) are central to the inter-activity of debate. They demonstrate your ability to engage with your opponent's arguments. POIs are allowed during the middle 5 minutes of speeches.

Each speaker has a period of 'protected time' at the beginning and end of their speech so they can get started without being interrupted. After this minute has elapsed, the other team can offer an interruption.

To do this, they indicate that they want to make a point by saying, "On a point of information," or "on that point."

The person who is giving their speech is in control at all times and can either accept the interruption by saying "accepted", "go ahead" or "yes, please", or decline by saying "declined", "no thank you" or by indicating with their hand that the person offering the POI should resume their seat. Sometimes the speaker could also say "I'll take you in a moment" and finish their point before accepting the POI, during which the person offering the POI should wait.

