



Debate Information

Lamb to the Slaughter

How a Debate Works: A Simple Guide

What Is a Debate?

- A **debate** is a formal discussion where two sides argue **for** or **against** a specific topic, called a **motion** or **resolution**.
- Each side presents arguments, supports them with evidence, and tries to persuade the audience or judges.

“For” VS “Against”

- **Proposition / Affirmative**

- ✓ Supports the motion (agrees with the statement)
- ✓ Argues why the motion is true or necessary

- **Opposition / Negative**

- ✗ Disagrees with the motion
- ✗ Argues why the motion is false or harmful

Basic Structure of a Debate

Speaker	Role	Time
1st Proposition (For)	Introduces the topic, defines terms, gives main points	3–5 min
1st Opposition (Against)	Responds to Prop., gives own arguments	3–5 min
2nd Proposition (For)	Builds on 1st Prop., rebuts Opp., adds new points	3–5 min
2nd Opposition (Against)	Responds to all Prop. points, strengthens Opp. case	3–5 min
Rebuttals For 1st, Again 2nd	Each side summarizes and rebuts key ideas	2–4 min each

Key Debating Skills

- **Argumentation:** Make clear, logical points
- **Evidence:** Use facts, examples, statistics, or expert opinions
- **Rebuttal:** Refute or challenge the other side's arguments
- **Persuasion:** Speak clearly, confidently, and with emotion
- **Structure:** Organize ideas clearly and stay on topic

Tips for Debating

- Prepare ahead: research both sides!
- Listen actively so you can rebut effectively.
- Speak clearly and at a steady pace.
- Stay respectful, even if you strongly disagree.
- Practice makes perfect — the more you debate, the better you get!