

# Welcome to The Debating Book!

## **This book is for you if:**

- You have never done debating before and would like to start.
- You have only just started debating and you would like to get better.
- You are an experienced debater and you want to be the best you can be.
- You are a teacher who would like to set up debating in your school and you aren't sure what to do.
- You are an experienced debating coach and you would like to support your students even better.
- You are the parent of someone who does, or would like to do, debating, and you want to support them.

In this book, you will find all you need to know about debating. Read it carefully, and you will become a (much) better debater / debating coach.

In this book, you will be learning about: why you should do debating; how debating works; the basic skills of debating; bad arguments to avoid (and how to attack them when other people use them), and good arguments to persuade people; the big issues and ideas that debates are about; useful facts about the world that debaters need to know; tricks to make your speeches more persuasive; how you can use debating in lessons; and how to set up and run debating in your school. You will also find a full transcript of an expert debate with close analysis, explaining what star debaters do and how they do it.

You can read this book by yourself; take it to debating competitions for reference; use it as a textbook for debating training sessions. You can dip in and out of different chapters as you need to.

I hope I've persuaded you to read this book! (Debating is all about persuading people.)

***If so, read on ...***