

define. However, the motion doesn't tell us how much money. You are probably best off defining it as a more or less infinite amount, so that you can argue that the trouble with money is that you no matter how much you have you could always have more, so you are always dissatisfied, so you are never happy.

3. What do we have to prove?

That certain things bring happiness, and that none of them depend on money; or alternatively, that depending on money to make you happy will never be successful, because you can always have more money, and therefore will be permanently dissatisfied and unhappy.

4. What do they have to prove?

The opposition have to prove that the things that bring happiness depend on money and cannot be achieved without them. They are likely therefore to focus on things that money can buy, such as material security, good healthcare and the opportunity to support your children.

You need to have answers to these questions jotted down in the first two minutes. **Yes, two minutes.** You have to think fast as a debater.

Next, you need to take up another sheet of paper and start brainstorming arguments for both sides (still without talking to your debating partner). Do this for three minutes. In this three minutes, you need to switch off the part of your brain that keeps telling you that what you're doing isn't very good. Don't worry whether the arguments are good or not; just get them down, as many of them as possible. Quantity is more important than quality at this stage. Selection comes later.

The five minutes are up. You look up from your notepads. Your eyes meet.

What do you do now?

First, you share your answers to the big questions, and make sure you agree on the answers. Once you've done that, it will be easy to agree how you're going to define the motion (see defining the motion on page 35 on how to do that). With the big answers and the motion definition clear in your minds, you can proceed to the arguments. Go through the ones for your side of the motion first.

Choose the six most persuasive. Then rank them according to their persuasiveness. The first speaker gets the top three in order of persuasiveness, the second speaker gets the next three in order of persuasiveness. Note, no more than three arguments each. Time to reach for the index cards now. Take one for each of your three arguments. On it, write a headline, which should be no more than a word or at most a phrase, and short points on how you're going to expand on it.

With the motions we've picked, a card for the 'meat' motion might look like this:

HEALTH

- *Excessive consumption of meat = major cause of heart disease and diabetes.*
- *Taxing it discourages consumption, nudges consumers towards healthier choices by making them cheaper.*
- *Heavy taxation on tobacco = massive reduction in smoking = major health benefits; taxing meat = same.*

A card for the 'money' motion might look like this:

LOVE

- *Being loved = happiness.*
- *Love that is paid for is not love.*
- *Money can corrupt relationships, e.g. being friends with / marrying someone for their money.*
- *True love does not depend on money. e.g. marriage vow 'for richer, for poorer'.*

The smallness of index cards has two advantages:

1. It makes them easier to handle while you are speaking, ensuring you spend more time making eye contact and less time fumbling with your notes.
2. It ensures your notes are concise and focused.

Boiling your speech down to three index cards will also help you to signpost it better (see above on how to signpost on page 41).

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