

By working through this process collectively, members of each team present a complete picture to the audience. Chapters then take you through the speeches in the order they occur in a debate and ground them in the wider context of how a debate works. They explain the role of each speaker in the debate and also examine how the team must work together to create a robust, coherent case that will win the debate.

Exercises in this section ask you to watch debates and analyze how expert debaters handle the various components of a debate.

Up to this point, the text has focused on how to debate. Part 4 explains how to debate well. What has gone before sets out the rules and the protocols of debating; this section tells you what you must do to win a debate. It addresses the practical issues that you will confront: how to use preparation time, take notes, pace your speech, deal with Points of Information and cross-examination, use manner (style) effectively, and ensure clash.

The ideas presented throughout this book don't set out a "right" way for you to speak as a debater. They are just ideas that have worked and that you might want to try. That's particularly true of this last section—it's full of suggestions to help you, but it's just as important for you to find out what works for you personally and what doesn't.

The exercises in this section focus on understanding and then polishing your debating skills. Alongside the exercises, you should now begin organizing debates to put your abstract knowledge into practice. Debate really can only be learned by doing, so begin speaking in debates regularly. In your first debates, don't be strict about particular rules. As long as both sides have the same amount of time to prove their case, there's an opportunity for the cases to develop throughout the debate and there's a means by which the two sides can interact—the other details can come later. However, you may find it useful to have some trial debates in the four formats set out here to give you a feel for which approach you prefer.

Through the process of debate we challenge ourselves and others to question their own ideas and assumptions and investigate a perspective that is not their own. In offering a forum in which to reject ideas that are really just habits and opinions that are simply assertions, a debate provides a crucible in which knowledge, judgments, claims, and values can be tested. Doing so allows us to refine, temper, and clarify our understanding of the world around us and, through that process, discover it anew.

As you will see, debate is both challenging and enjoyable.

Have fun and good luck!

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