

DEBATE

Age: 10-99

Players: 3-8

Duration: 20 minutes

A game by:

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Contents: 42 motion cards; 1 discourse structure card; 2 white boards; 1 scoreboard; 2 erasable markers; Rules

Debate is a game which develops critical and dialectical thinking: competitors must support a motion or counter-motion, which may not necessarily reflect their own opinion. In this manner, the issues must be evaluated from various points of view.

It is possible to play alone as a rhetorical exercise, with two people, or with multiple players. A set of motion cards is provided along with a card, divided into five different points, to help the competitors structure their speeches.

Preparation

Place the sheet with the discourse structure in the centre of the table. This scheme is provided as an example, but it does not necessary have to be followed slavishly during the debate. The motion cards are shuffled and placed in a deck within reach.



How to play

Two competitors begin, playing against each other. The other players form the jury. A motion card is drawn. One of the players defends the proposed idea, the other opposes it. Four speeches are given for and against each motion, lasting about a minute each. The proposer of the motion starts, followed by the opposer, before a response by the proposer and then finally the second speech by the opposer. The goal is to be clear, organised and convincing. At the end of the debate, the other players vote for the most convincing speech, assigning it a score from 1 to 5; the scores are written down on the scoreboard. The debater with the highest score wins: they will then choose one of the jurors to challenge as the next competitor, and the game continues in this manner.

Whiteboards

The whiteboards are used to note down prompts and topics both before and during the debate.

Debate Topics

The game contains 42 motion cards on various topics. Nevertheless, players can decide to play using other debate topics to be chosen by common agreement, on the basis of their own tastes or interests.

Note: the whiteboard should be cleaned with a damp cloth after use.