

USEFUL PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS FOR DEBATES

<p>EXPRESSING ONE'S OPINION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think/suppose ... • As far as I'm concerned... • In my opinion... • I must say that... • I have a (very good) reason to believe that ... • I'm of the opinion that ... • The first point I would like to raise is this... 	<p>DEFENDING ONE'S OPINION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, but what I really mean is ... • What I'm trying to say is ... • On the contrary ... • I'd like to point out that... • You are free to disagree with me but ... 	<p>ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... Is that what you mean? • Do you want to say that ...? • Did you say that ...? • You mean that..., don't you? • You said ..., didn't you? • ... Is that what you wanted to say? 	<p>EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see. • I've got that. • That's clear now. • All right. • OK 	<p>CHECKING UNDERSTANDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is that clear? • Are you with me? • Do you see what I mean?
<p>WHEN YOU NEED TO SAY SOMETHING NOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm sorry to interrupt, but you've misunderstood our point. • Excuse me, but that's not quite correct. • Sorry, I just have to disagree with your point. • Let me just respond to that, please. • Forgive me for interrupting, but I must respond to that. • Hold on a moment, that's not correct. • If you don't mind, I'd like to add a comment here... 	<p>EXPRESSING DOUBT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can't say if ... • I have my doubts about that. • Do you think that ...? I doubt it. • It's very doubtful whether ... • You haven't convinced us that ... • You may have a point there, but I'm still not sure that... • OK, but ... • I see your point but... • That's all very interesting, but the problem is that... 	<p>AGREEING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, that's right. • Exactly. • I (fully) agree with ____. • True. • That's right. • Quite so. • OK. • ____ put it very well. • What ____ said is the most important ..., I feel. • I feel that ____ is right. • ____ raised some very good points • I think so too. 	<p>DISAGREEING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm afraid you are wrong here. • That's not right. • Absolutely not. • I've got some reasons to disagree that ... • I've got an argument to oppose. ... • I see your point but ... • There may be something in what you say /said about ...but... • You can't say that ... • On the one hand ... • On the other hand, ... • I'm afraid I can't quite agree with your point. 	<p>GIVING CONCLUDING COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sum up, here are the main points our opponents have not addressed... • We pointed out that... • Our opponents have claimed that... • To recap the main points... • Let's sum up where we stand in this debate. • Let me summarize our position in this debate. • In summary, we want to point out that...

FORMAL DEBATING PHRASES

<p>OPENING THE DEBATE Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this debate.</p>	<p>SEQUENCING ARGUMENTS Let me come to my first / second / next argument... My first/ second/ next... argument is... The first / second...reason why we are proposing/ opposing this motion/ idea is... First of all, I'd like to state.../ Firstly, .../ Secondly, ... The second argument in favor of... To begin with.../ I'd start by.../ For a start, ...</p>		<p>GIVING EXAMPLES There are many examples for this, for instance... In fact, you can find many examples for this in real life. Just think of... And there are similar cases, such as ... So, in this simple example we can clearly see the effect of ...</p>
<p>STATING THE ISSUE The theme/ motion for debate today is... Let's first define some important concepts... People / This team... believe(s)/ feel(s) / insist(s) / think(s) that</p>	<p>PHRASES TO PRESENT THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS This argument/ idea is of paramount importance. The most important argument for...is.../ The main idea/ thing is... The most important idea is.../ The primary argument for...is... Most importantly I want to mention that... Two / three...important arguments support my point of view...</p> <p>ADDING AN ARGUMENT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR POINT You also have to consider... What is more, ... Not only that but also... Not to mention the fact that... Furthermore, .../ Moreover, ... I might also add that... Perhaps / Maybe I should also mention...</p>		
<p>REBUTTING ARGUMENTS Before I come to my own arguments, let us first have a look at what...has said. I will continue our case in a minute, but before that there are some things about the ... speech that need to be addressed. The first speaker has told us ...; on the contrary ... He /She also said that ...; but in fact, ... He /She was claiming that ...; but as my first speaker already told you, ...</p>	<p>CONCLUDING Let me recap/ recapitulate my point... As a final word, let me summarize my point of view. To sum up, ... It all boils down to... To reiterate my point of view, ... Finally, ...</p>		