

## Debate (για παιδιά Δημοτικού)



@ The Moraitis School

Απογευματινός Κύκλος Μαθημάτων



## Events

## Responsibilities

- Take notes and study them at home. Research the topics given, write down arguments and prepare the motions.
- Debate during class!
- Responsibility towards your partner (do not leave him/her without a partner before an event). Debate is a team sport!
- You are encouraged to take part in Moraitis Cup under the condition that you have worked and you have shown commitment during the year.

# What is a debate?

Debate is a process that involves formal discussion on a particular topic. In a debate, opposing **arguments** are put forward to argue for opposing viewpoints.

You will be debating in teams of 2. There will be at least one judge who will be evaluating the speeches. He/she is not allowed to interfere. The judge will be calling the speakers in order.

## Teams and Speakers

- 2 sides (proposition → support the motion // opposition → oppose the motion)
- 4 teams (opening government OG, opening opposition OO, closing government CG, closing opposition CO)
- 8 speakers

### IMPORTANT

Even though there are two teams supporting each side of the motion, they should not cooperate.

<b>OG</b> 1. Prime Minister 3. Deputy Prime Minister	<b>OO</b> 2. Leader of opposition 4. Deputy Leader of opposition
<b>CG</b> 5. Member of proposition 7. Whip Speaker	<b>CO</b> 6. Member of opposition 8. Whip Speaker

Each speaker has the right to ask questions to the opposing teams during their speeches.

## Motions

Every round starts with a motion. It states the topic of the debate. There are 2 formats:

1. THW (This House Would), for example "THW ban zoos"
2. THBT (This House Believes That), for example "THBT the Internet does more harm than good to children".

# Timing

Speeches last for 4 minutes.

- The first and last minute are Protected Time – no **points of information (POIs)** can be made during them.
- Points of Information should be offered during the 2 minutes of unprotected time.

# Arguments

An argument is a series of claims with which the debater tries to show the truth of his/her points and to convince the judges. It is based on connecting these claims in a convincing way in order to prove that his/her point is true and important in the context of the debate.

# Speaker's Job (Role Fulfillment)

**Prime minister:** → **define** the motion (explain what the topic means)  
→ analyze 1-2 arguments (the most important ones)  
→ **summarize** the speech (if there is time)

**Leader of Opposition:** → **rebut** the PM  
→ analyze 1-2 arguments (the most important ones)  
→ summarize the speech (if there is time)

**Deputy prime minister:** → rebut the leader of opp  
→ analyze 1-2 arguments  
→ summarize the speech

**Deputy leader of opp:** → rebut the deputy PM  
→ analyze 1-2 arguments  
→ summarize the speech

**Member of prop:** → rebut the deputy leader of opp  
→ provide **case extension** (at least one new argument)  
→ summarize the speech

**Member of opp:** → rebut the member of prop  
→ provide case extension (at least one new argument)  
→ summarize the speech

**Whip of prop:**

- rebut the member of opp
- NO new arguments
- summarize his/her side's rebuttals opp's arguments
- summarize his/her side's arguments.

**Whip of opp:**

- NO rebuttal of previous speaker
- NO new arguments
- summarize his/her side's rebuttals to prop's arguments
- summarize his/her side's arguments.

All speakers (except the whip speakers) have to say their **case construction** after stating the opening of their speech.

## Definitions

- Definition:** The part of the speech where the speaker explains what the different terms of the topic mean (explain the meaning of the words in reference with the topic). It is provided by the prime minister in the opening of his speech.
- Rebuttal:** The part of the speech where the speaker explains why the opponent's arguments are not true or irrelevant in this debate.
- Case extension:** It is the argumentation provided by the closing teams. It consists of at least 1 new argument, so that the side's case is extended.
- POI:** Point Of Information. A question or a point asked to the speaker by the opposite side. It has to be quick and relevant to what the speaker says. It aims to show that the argument, the speaker is analyzing, has flaws. Points of Information should not exceed 15 seconds. The speaker might accept it by saying "yes please" or decline it by saying "no thank you".
- Summary:** Repeat your main arguments briefly (depends on the time left).
- Case construction:** Announcing the elements of your speech in a chronological order (definition/rebut, arguments with titles). It has to be provided after the opening of your speech (after you have stated the motion).



Α. Παπαναστασίου & Αγ. Δημητρίου | 154 52 Ψυχικό  
τηλ.: 2106795000 | fax: 2106795090  
e-mail: admin@moraitis.edu.gr | www.moraitis.edu.gr



@moraitisschool



#moraitis\_school

## Debate (για παιδιά Δημοτικού)



@ The Moraitis School

Απογευματινός Κύκλος Μαθημάτων



## Preparation Time

- Your usual prep time will be about 15 minutes.
- Firstly, you have 2 minutes to think about the topic (what it means) and to brainstorm.
- Then, you share your ideas with your partner and write them down.
- Make sure you have the same understanding of the topic and of each point.
- You choose the most important ideas (see strategy) and decide which arguments you will each analyze.
- Lastly, you write down and analyze in depth your own arguments. If your partner needs help, you assist him/her.
- You are now ready!

### Ideas on how to brainstorm:

Who is affected by the motion?

STAKEHOLDERS It might be people (students, minorities, etc), institutions (schools, hospitals, government etc) and subjects (the environment, technology etc).

How are they affected → Argument

## The three aspects of a debate speech

### A.Strategy

- Organize your arguments. The first speaker gets the most important ones. He/she says the most important one first.
- Don't say more than 3 arguments! Focus on analyzing the rest in depth.
- Pretend that the judges know nothing and you have to explain to them every little detail. (Don't take anything for granted!)
- Best way to rebut: CRITICAL THINKING. Think simply why what the opponent says does not stand and make it quick.
- Use **examples** to illustrate your arguments.

## B. Analysis

Analysis is one of the most important parts of a debate, because good ideas are not enough! Speakers must show to the judges that they can expand these ideas, elaborate on them and link them to the motion. This happens through **arguments**.

Arguments are the means through which a speaker persuades the audience that he/she should win the debate. Essentially, arguments are like a short story, which proves the idea of the speaker. Therefore, arguments should have a structure: a short title, an introduction, the main analysis, some examples and, finally, a short conclusion.

While you are thinking and writing down an argument, the following questions can help you:

1. Why is what you're saying true?
2. Why is what you're saying important?
3. How can it be implemented?

Are there any examples that support my ideas? (You can use historical examples, statistics, or even imaginary scenarios that help you show to the audience what you mean)

## C.Style

- Speak clearly, slowly and maintain eye-contact.
- Speak loudly!
- Use hand gestures and body language.
- Be confident!
- Don't lean on the desk
- Don't move around
- Leave your notes on the desk. Try not to just read them, but to look at the audience as well.

# Points of information (POI)

- Before accepting a POI, finish what you are saying.
- Don't accept more than 2 POIs.
- If you don't know how to reply to a POI say something like "I am going to answer that later on my speech"
- You should wait at least 10 seconds before offering a new POI. Otherwise, your interruption can be annoying to the speaker.
- If your POI is not accepted, write it down and either use it as a rebut if you can or pass it to your partner.
- Before asking a POI, make sure you know what you are going to say.

# Structure of speech - Phrases

## How to open your speech:

1. Thank you Mr/Madam speaker
2. Honourable judges, worthy opponents and helpful teammates.
3. The motion before us today is....
4. In my speech I am going to analyze 2 main arguments which are
  - a) Title and
  - b) Title and my partner is going to talk to you about a) Title b) Title...

But before doing so I would like to define the motion/rebut the points brought up by the previous speaker.

\*Numbers 4 and 5 not for whip speakers.

CG Whip speaker: In my speech, I am going to rebut the arguments brought by the previous speaker and then I am going to summarize the debate for the team government.

CO Whip speaker: In my speech, I am going to summarize the debate for team opposition.

## Helpful phrases:

1. My first argument is...
2. Now, moving on with my second argument. By that, we mean that..

## How to finish your speech:

1. What have I told you today. After defining the motion/rebutting the previous speaker, I analyzed...
2. For all the above reasons, we beg you to propose/oppose the motion OR we believe that we have won this debate OR we strongly propose/oppose the motion. Thank you.



Α. Παπαναστασίου & Αγ. Δημητρίου | 154 52 Ψυχικό  
τηλ.: 2106795000 | fax: 2106795090  
e-mail: admin@moraitis.edu.gr | www.moraitis.edu.gr



@moraitisschool



#moraitis\_school