

YEAR 5 & 6 WORKSHOP



How to debate

3 v 3 debate

What is a debate?

A debate is a polite argument with rules, where two teams try to change the judge's mind.

A DEBATE TOPIC

The motion

Everybody in the room talks about the motion.

TWO TEAMS

3 v 3

One team agrees with the motion, the other disagrees.

THE JUDGES ARE

Your audience

You speak to the judge — not at the other team.

The motion

THIS HOUSE WOULD

Ban homework in every primary school

Motion = topic. It is the one thing the whole debate is about.

"This House" means everyone in the room — not your house team.

You get it early, so you have time to plan with your team.

The two sides

Proposition

Says YES to the motion

"Homework should be banned, and here are our three reasons why."

Opposition

Says NO to the motion

"Homework should stay, and here are our three reasons why."

You do not pick your side — you are given one. Sometimes you argue for something you do not really believe. That is allowed.

Types of motion

THW

This House Would...

We should change something.

THW give every pupil a school laptop.

THBT

This House Believes That...

Something is true or good.

THBT school uniform is a good idea.

THS

This House Supports...

We are on this person's side.

THS letting pupils choose their own reading books.

The six speakers

PROPOSITION · SAYS YES

1

The 1st Proposition Speaker

Starts the debate and sets out the team's case

3

The 2nd Proposition Speaker

Defends the team and adds a new reason

5

The 3rd Proposition Speaker

Sums up why their team won

OPPOSITION · SAYS NO

2

The 1st Opposition Speaker

Says why they disagree and sets out their case

4

The 2nd Opposition Speaker

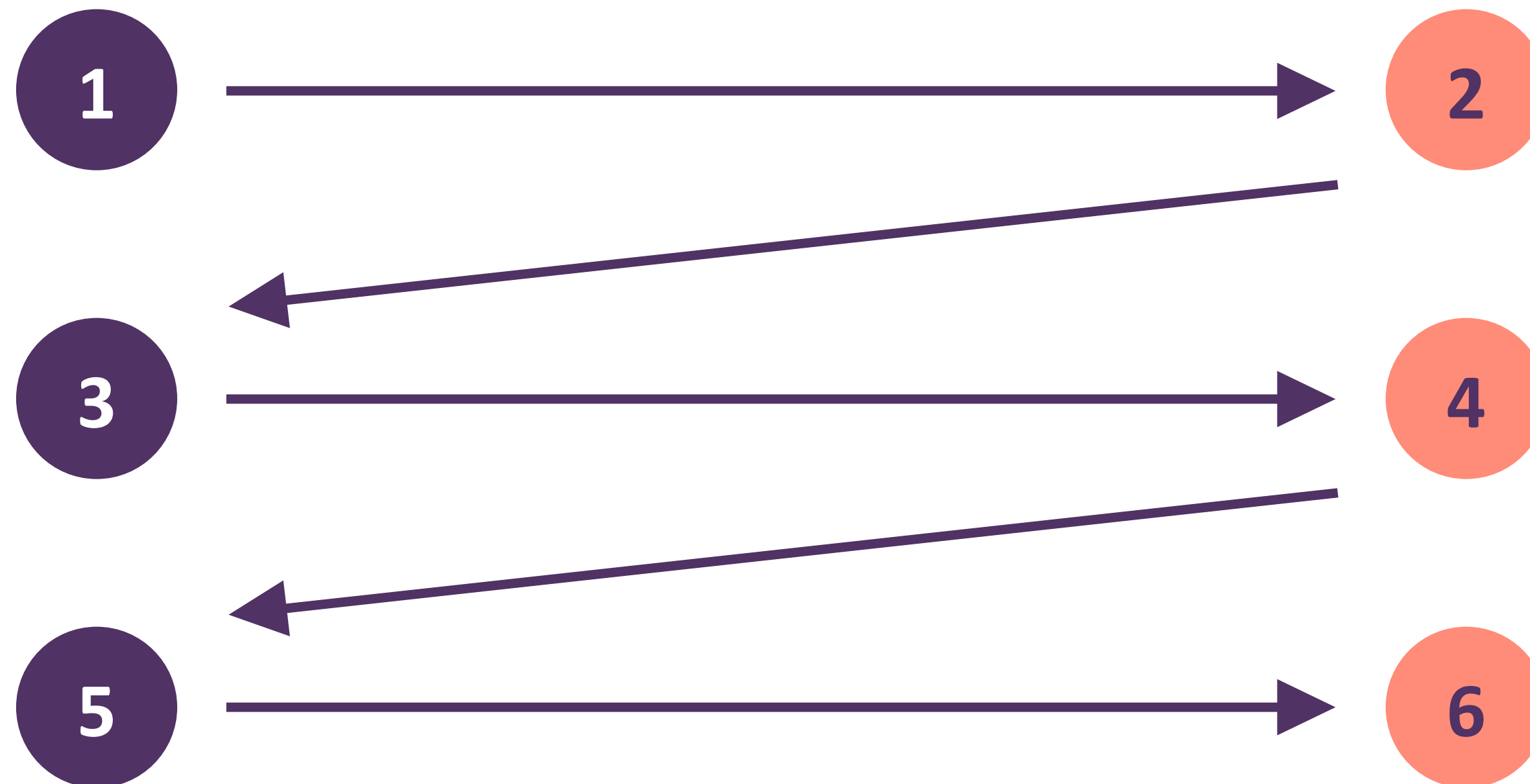
Defends the team and adds a new reason

6

The 3rd Opposition Speaker

Closes the whole debate

Speaking order



Purple = Proposition

Peach = Opposition

Sides take turns. Proposition always speaks first; Opposition always speaks last.

TIMING

4 minutes each

The 1st Speakers

Proposition

- Explain what the motion means in your own words
- Say what your team will prove — your three reasons
- Give your first reason properly, with an example

Opposition

- Say clearly why your team disagrees
- Knock down what the first speaker just said
- Give your own three reasons, best one first

Say it like this: "Today we believe that... and we have three reasons why."

The 2nd Speakers

Proposition

- Mend your team's case where it was attacked
- Show what is wrong with the other side's reasons
- Add your team's next reason

Opposition

- Mend your team's case where it was attacked
- Answer anything new the last speaker said
- Add your team's next reason

Say it like this: "They told you... but that cannot be true, because..."

The 3rd Speakers

Proposition

- Pick the two biggest disagreements in the debate
- Explain why your team won each one
- No new reasons — only extra detail

Opposition

- Pick the two biggest disagreements in the debate
- Explain why your team won each one
- You speak last, so finish strongly

Say it like this: "This debate came down to two questions — and we won both."

Points of information

Offering one

- Raise your hand and say "Point of information"
- Put your hand down straight away if they wave you down
- Keep it short — fifteen seconds
- Ask something that damages their case

Taking one

- Take one or two in your speech — judges expect it
- Finish your sentence first, then accept
- Answer it, then get back to your point
- "No thank you" is always allowed

PROTECTED TIME

First and last minute

No points may be offered in the first or last minute of any speech. In between, offer them — only the other side may.

How to disagree

STEP 1

They said

Repeat their point, so everyone knows what you are answering.

STEP 2

But

Say what is wrong with it, calmly and clearly.

STEP 3

Because

Give your reason, or an example everyone will recognise.

STEP 4

Therefore

Say what that means for the debate as a whole.

ALL FOUR STEPS TOGETHER

"They said homework helps us learn. But most of us do it in a rush at bedtime. Because we are tired, we remember almost none of it. Therefore homework is not really helping anyone."

Points of information

A polite way to interrupt the other side with one quick question.

1

Stand up and say "Point of information".

2

The speaker says yes, or "no thank you". Both are fine.

3

If yes, ask it in about fifteen seconds. Then sit down.

Offer a point only in the middle of someone's speech — never in their first or last minute.

Useful phrases

STARTING

"Today we believe that..."

"By this motion we mean..."

"We have three reasons why."

SIGNPOSTING

"My first reason is..."

"Moving on to my second point..."

"Let me give you an example."

DISAGREEING

"They told you... but..."

"Even if that were true..."

"That is not the case, because..."

FINISHING

"For all these reasons..."

"That is why we ask you to vote with us."

"Proud to propose. Proud to oppose."

WINNING

How judges score you



CONTENT

What you say

Are your reasons true, important, and explained with examples?

STYLE

How you say it

A clear voice, no rushing, and easy for anyone to follow.

STRATEGY

How you team up

Three speakers, one team and everyone doing their own job.

Remember

The loudest team does not win. The team with the best reasons does.

Debating manners

Do

- Listen while the other side is speaking
- Speak to the judge, not at your opponents
- Disagree with the idea, not the person
- Thank the other team at the end

Do not

- Shout, boo, or talk over anyone
- Make it personal or unkind
- Make things up to win a point
- Sulk if the judge picks the other team

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER



Over to you

Know your job

1st, 2nd and 3rd speakers all have different jobs.

Give reasons

Never just say no. Always say because.

Stay kind

Beat the argument, not the person.