

DEBATE 101

GENERAL TIPS & TRICKS

REFER TO EVIDENCE

By aligning each of your ideas with a credible source, delegates as well as the dais will take your ideas more seriously. In addition, credible sources will increase your overall professional appearance and preparation for a conference.

THINK COMPARATIVELY

Every argument that you make will be compared to something another delegate says. Always think ahead, do not repeat what another delegate just said, but connect it back to a larger claim or an action that must be taken to help debate flow.

BE CONFIDENT

Composure, poise, and ethos are essential in public speaking. There is a fine line between being arrogant and being confident. Delegates will appreciate a fellow delegate who can deliver their ideas with confidence and strengths.

LISTEN & REFLECT

An important part of debate is listening to your fellow delegates. By listening carefully to their ideas and points, you'll be able to adapt to others' arguments and increase inclusivity throughout the conversations. The committee will move forward with progress when ideas are passed around and elaborated on during debate.

STRUCTURED LANGUAGE

Ideas are best when they are structured logically. Start statements with a topic sentence that captures the main point of your argument. Follow this up with different points of evidence and detail that support your main point. Finally, close your statements with a conclusion or a call to action for the committee.

LOUD & CLEAR

Successfully communicating your ideas is essential for effective debate. All delegates will hear you properly if you are projecting your voice and enunciating each word precisely. Speaking clearly is crucial in ensuring that everyone is able to process the points that you present.

MUN RELATED SKILLS

THE FLOW

Having successful debate in a committee starts with reaching out to other delegates at the beginning of the committee. Research what positions would be potential allies and continue to listen for ideas that correlate with your position. During moderated caucuses and other formal debates, engage with other delegates by sharing your position's views and clearly define the issues and solutions you want to tackle. During unmoderated caucuses and other informal debates, talk and strategize with other delegates with similar positions and gain more allies in order to compile your bundle of ideas. Never forget to stick to YOUR position's policies and views no matter what.

