



EDU
SPOTS

EduLIT: Literacy Club

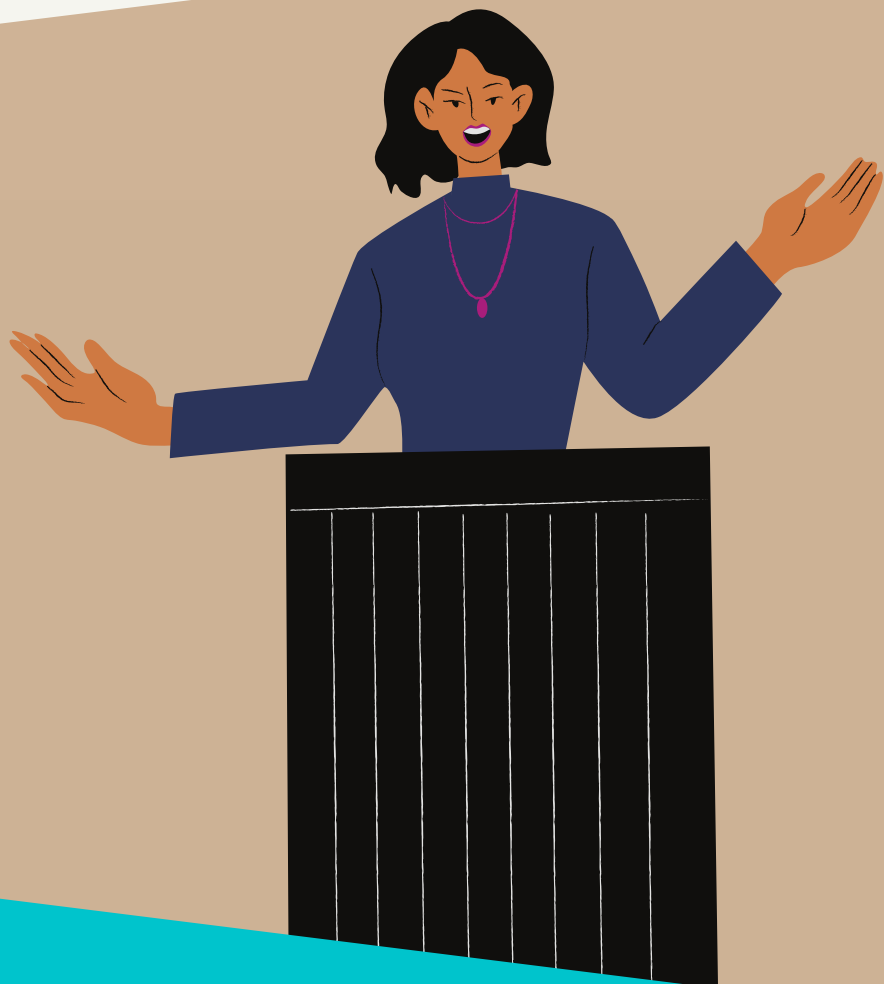
PART 4 OF A 4 WEEK SERIES

Debates

Non-fiction Writing



Structure



- 1) **Come up with a motion** (take ideas from the lesson on arguments)
- 2) **Designate two speakers for either side of the motion**
- 3) **Speaker 1 'for' argues; Speaker 1 'against' argues**
- 4) **speaker 2 'for' argues; Speaker 2 'against' argues**
- 5) **Open up to the floor, which asks approx. five questions to any speaker; speakers answer accordingly**
- 6) **A speaker from each side sums up argument**
- 7) **Vote on whether to pass the motion**

Coming up with a rebuttal

- Aside from the first speaker for the motion, speakers have the opportunity to refute and state their argument
- To do this, use the four-step refutation: 1: Restate- "They Say", 2: Refute- "But we Say", 3: Support- Use Evidence, Step 4: Conclude - Impact
- Identify assertions, contradictions, flaws in reasoning and incorrect facts



Role of the Floor

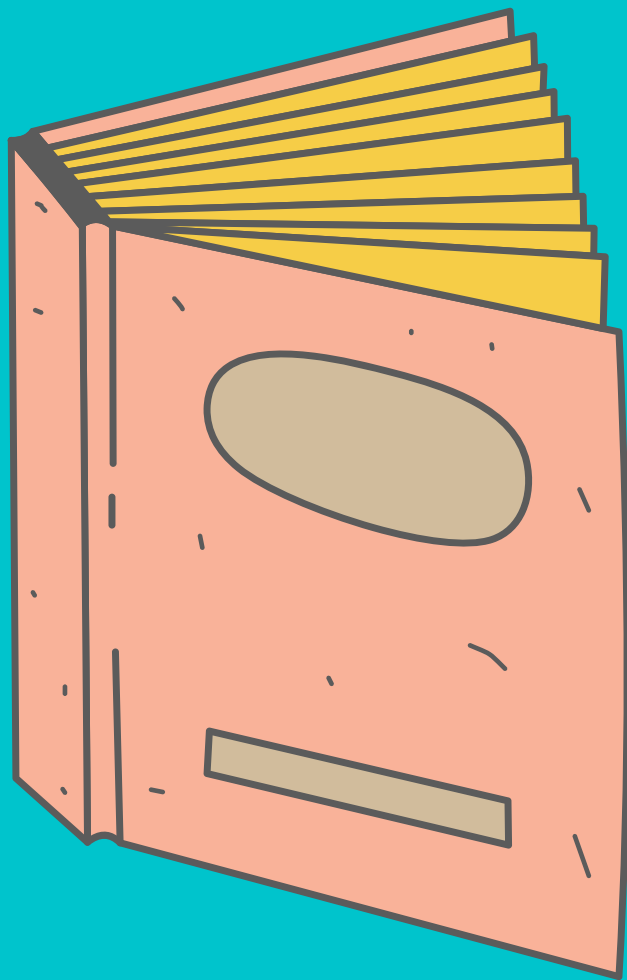
Asking a good question:

- Aim to scrutinise the speakers' point, not give your own
- Aim to be succinct and to-the-point with a direct focus
- Aim to be specific and relevant
- Aim to bring out weaknesses/contradictions in arguments presented and force the speaker to explain themselves



JHS3 syllabus guide: 4.8.1 write debates on given motions.

Helpful words and phrases



It's true/obvious/evident that ... However, ...

While you might say that..., it's important to understand that ...

I agree with you that...

Although/even though it is true that...

I agree/admit/concede that..., but it is imperative for us to remember that...

The motion for debate today is...

We, who are for/against today's motion, strongly believe that this is true/not true.

Tips and techniques

- Make **eye contact** with the opposition and audience, stand firm and have a relaxed posture
- Beware of barrack damage; when points of **information are offered too quickly** in succession and are disruptive.
- Use open **body language**
- **Speak clearly** and don't rush
- Use a **clear structure** for the debate
- Use the four-step refutation: 1: **Restate**- "They Say", 2: **Refute**- "But we Say", 3: **Support**- Use Evidence , Step 4: **Conclude** - Impact
- **Avoid sidetracking**
- Use **rhetoric**
- **Listen carefully** to the opposition in order to make a coherent counter argument

