

# ASSIGNMENT 2: DEBATE

## *Year 9 English: Persuasive Writing*

**Learning Intentions:** *Students are familiar with the format and structure of a formal debate. Students can select and order information to reflect a range of viewpoints, considering both sides of a contentious issue. Students understand how rhetorical devices are used to persuade, and how to strengthen an argument using examples and evidence. Students can use critical thinking skills to prepare a cohesive rebuttal at short notice. Students can work in teams to plan and present a persuasive speech and can use effective speaking skills when presenting.*

**For this assignment, you will be divided into teams of three and given a topic at random. Within your teams, you will plan your side of the debate, researching the issue thoroughly, consolidating your main arguments, and deciding who will present which areas of the topic. You will also prepare to rebut the opposing team by predicting points they may raise and planning what to say in response. When you have written your speeches, you will spend time practicing them, working on developing good speaking techniques. You will then present the debate in front of the class.**

### **Step 1: Plan & Research**

- Look up the meanings of any key words in your topic
- Define your topic – write it out in your own words. What does it mean to you?
- Begin researching your topic. Use the planning sheet to brainstorm as many points as you can that support your team’s position. Then consolidate – decide on 4 main arguments.
- At the same time, look for information that supports the opposing team’s position. Try and predict what their main arguments will be and what you could say in rebuttal.
- Write your TEAM LINE – what your team’s position is on the topic and why.
- Allocate positions in your team – decide who will cover which points and which order you will speak in. This is your TEAM SPLIT.

### **Step 2: Write the scripts for each speaker**

- Make sure each speech is structured correctly and contains all the correct components for their position (e.g. First Affirmative speaker needs to describe the team line and team split)
- Include persuasive rhetorical devices to make your speeches more convincing
- Make sure your main points are in PEEL format – Point, Evidence, Elaboration, Link

### **Step 3: Practice**

- Create cue-cards or print your speech out in a format that’s easy to read
- Practice reading your speeches aloud to each other within your teams. You **MUST** read it aloud at least twice to help with fluency.
- Annotate your speech, marking places to speed up or slow down, words to emphasise etc.
- Practice using good speaking skills (eye contact, pacing, emphasis, tone)
- Time yourself to make sure you won’t go overtime (3 minutes)
- **DON’T** let the opposition gain an advantage by overhearing your arguments!

# DEBATE: MARKING RUBRIC

Criteria	A	B	C	D
<p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech was structured correctly with required components for debating position (e.g. definition, team split &amp; divide, rebuttal or summary where appropriate)</li> <li>• Point paragraphs were structured correctly using PEEL format</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Teamwork, Planning &amp; Debating Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked effectively with team to plan &amp; write debate</li> <li>• Listened respectfully to other people's debates</li> <li>• Worked as a team to record opposing team's arguments &amp; plan rebuttals effectively during debate</li> <li>• Rebuttals were structured correctly (state opposing point, say why it's wrong, counter with own point)</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Persuasive Techniques:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech used persuasive devices (e.g. direct address, rhetorical questions, hyperbole, similes &amp; metaphors, emotive language, pathos/ethos/logos)</li> <li>• Speech used at least one SOPHISTICATED persuasive device e.g. anaphora, antimetabole, hypophora</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Language &amp; Editing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used formal language appropriate for a debate</li> <li>• Used examples, quotes, facts &amp; statistics to back up points</li> <li>• Script was edited/proofread with no mistakes in spelling, grammar, and punctuation</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Speaking &amp; Presenting Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used emphasis, expression, and pauses to be persuasive when speaking</li> <li>• Used eye contact</li> <li>• Spoke clearly, slowly &amp; at a good volume</li> </ul>				