

# Some useful structures for formal debates

## **1st Affirmative Speech:**

Ladies and gentlemen, today we're here to talk about something very important. The topic of today's debate is ...

First of all, ...

As you may have already inferred, my partner and I stand in firm affirmation of this topic.

In our first speech, I will be talking about...

After taking some time to respond to our opponents, my partner will address...

The first point we want to bring up is something vital...

The problems with this are twofold. First, .... Second, ...

The second point we would like to address is...

## **1st Negative Speech:**

Ladies and gentlemen, our opponents are correct in one thing, and that is... To begin, ...

My partner and I disagree with the other team and believe that...

After showing why my opponents' arguments are wrong, I am going to...

My partner will also respond to the affirmative team's arguments and then demonstrate...

The two points my opponent presented can be grouped into one single point, which is as follows... The fact is,... Our opponents claim that..., and that's true, but ...

If that were done, however, ....

Fortunately,... Indeed,...

History has shown this notion to be nothing more than...

## **2nd Affirmative Speech:**

Allow me to start off by...

The biggest example that supports our position is...

Such a policy would.... First and foremost,...

An additional benefit would be...

In summary, ...

## **2nd Negative Speech:**

So far, our opponents have built their case on some pretty dubious claims that...

Most recently, our opponents tried to say that... Now, let's not mince words, here... The affirmative team has done a good job at subtly hinting at it instead of saying it outright,...

Obviously, this is unethical and completely invalidates their claims...

The only responsible conclusion is that...

## **3rd Affirmative Speech:**

Throughout the course of this debate, we have proven and demonstrated that...

My partner and I have demonstrated that...

The most important thing to remember in this debate is...

It is our responsibility to...

## **3rd Negative Speech:**

We would like to thank the judges, the audience and our opponents for coming to this debate. We would also like to state one final time that...

It is important to remember that...

Their claims of ... are also void...

At the heart of it,...