

FAQ – Debating with UTA Debate Society

Why should I debate?

First of all, because it's loads of fun! Second, by debating you develop a bunch of really useful skills, such as:

- argumentation
- critical thinking
- language skills
- public speaking

You also get to make new friends (we are a surprisingly entertaining bunch!) and have interesting conversations on pretty much every imaginable topic on Earth.

Where and when do you meet?

Starting 13th September, we hold weekly debates on Tuesdays at 5pm in Pinni B room 5078, which can be found on the 5th floor of the building.

What happens at the weekly debates?

We usually begin with a short presentation or exercise related to some aspect of debating, such as how to build strong arguments or how to structure your speech in a way to make sense. This is then followed by the actual debate (more information on our debate format on the next pages), after which we head to a pub – usually O'Connell's – to eat, drink, chat & be merry.

What do you usually debate about?

Anything! Current events, politics, animal rights, human rights, space and aliens, some funny stuff as well... You name it, we debate it. The common theme in our topics is that no special knowledge about the subject is needed. You can also suggest a topic you'd like to debate about.

Do I have to prepare for the weekly debates beforehand?

No, there's no need to prepare – just bring yourself, and preferably a pen and some paper as well.

What if I don't have any experience in debating?

It doesn't matter if you've never debated before – just come to one of our weekly debates, and we'll be happy to introduce you to debating ☺

I'm interested in debating but I'm feeling nervous / insecure.

It's natural to feel nervous when speaking in front of other people, especially at the beginning. Just remember that the main purpose is to have fun and that

nobody expects you to be perfect! Participating in debates is voluntary, so if you feel like it, you can simply sit back and watch.

What if I can't participate every week?

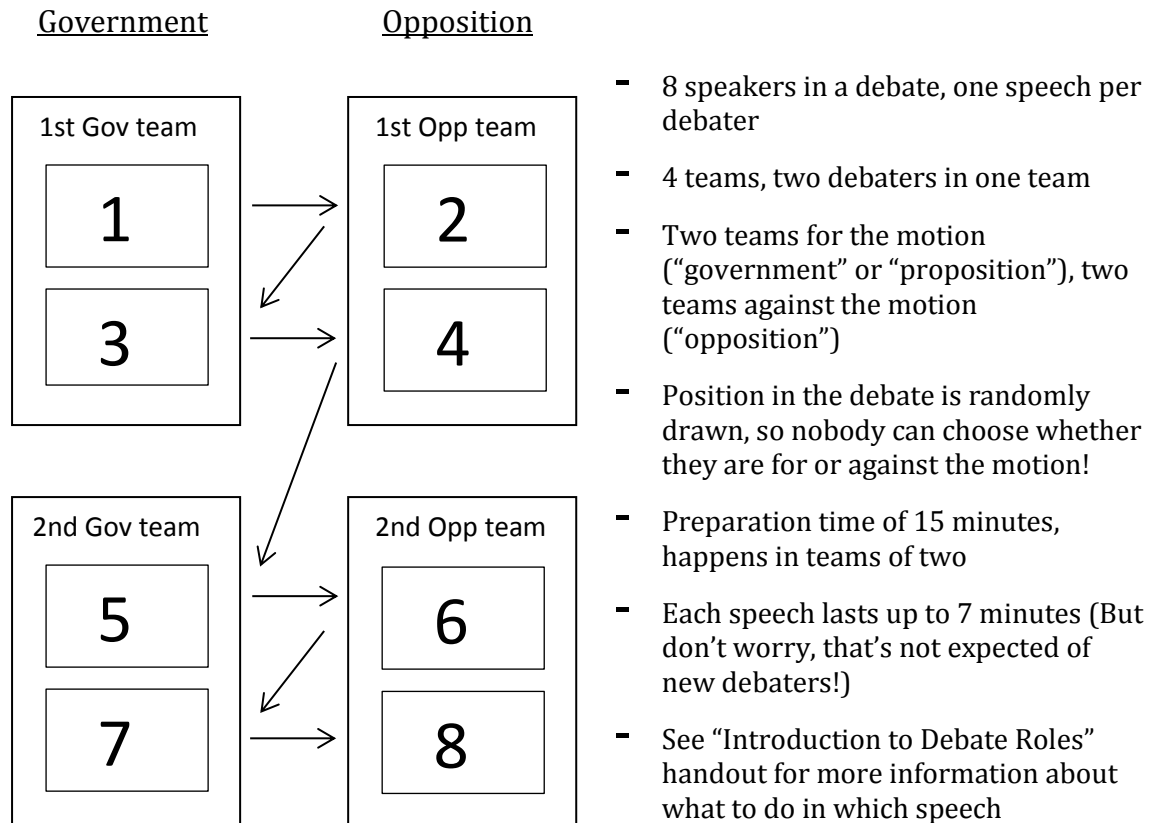
No problem, simply come by when you feel like it and when you have the time! Obviously, the more weekly debates you are able to attend, the more you learn about debating though 😊

What else does UTA Debate Society do?

We arrange other debate-related activities, such as debate workshops and visiting other debate societies or welcoming them to Tampere. We also arrange sauna evenings & other informal get-togethers. Some of our members also like to take part in different debate tournaments taking place in Finland or abroad.

Obviously, all of our activities are voluntary, so no worries if the thought of attending a debate tournament makes your skin crawl – just pick the activities you like best and be happy!

Introduction to WUDC Debate Format



Points of Information:

- Debaters on the other side can offer 'Points of Information' to the speaker **after the first and before the last minute of the debate speech**
- Pol's can be questions or comments
- Pol's should be asked and answered very quickly, max 15 seconds
- When someone wants to offer a PoI, they should stand up
- The speaker has the right to refuse the PoI being offered, in which case the person offering it must sit down
- Everyone should offer many Pol's during the debate and
- Everyone should **accept two of them** during their speech

Introduction to Debate Roles

Government

Opposition

1st
Gov
team

Prime Minister

sets the ground for the debate

- defines the motion and important terms
- presents a model for solving the issue (if needed)
- presents 2-3 arguments
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Deputy Prime Minister

adds to the government's case

- refutes the previous speaker's speech
- introduces 1-2 new arguments in line with the government's case
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Member of the Government

extends the debate to a new direction with a fresh point of view

- refutes the previous speaker's speech
- introduces a new line of argumentation
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Government Whip

summarizes the debate in favour of the government's case

- refutes the previous speaker's speech
- identifies 2-3 key themes or questions the government and the opposition disagreed on
- shouldn't introduce new arguments
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Order of Speeches

1. → 2.

3. → 4.

5. → 6.

7. → 8.

Leader of the Opposition

sets the ground for the opposition's case

- refutes the prime minister's speech and the model presented
- shouldn't challenge the definitions
- presents 2-3 arguments
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

adds to the opposition's case

- refutes the previous speaker's speech
- introduces 1-2 new arguments in line with the opposition's case
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Member of the Opposition

extends the debate to a new direction with a fresh point of view

- refutes the previous speaker's speech
- introduces a new line of argumentation
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

Opposition Whip

summarizes the debate in favour of the opposition's case

- identifies 2-3 key themes or questions the government and the opposition disagreed on
- is not allowed to introduce new arguments
- should accept two points of information during the speech
- should offer many points of information during the debate

2nd
Gov
team