

Unit-3 Debate: The three-minute debate planner

**Semester 3 – Professional Communication Skills
(303193203)**

Learning Objectives

- Understand the nature and structure of a formal debate.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of debate teams.
- Practice preparing arguments and rebuttals.
- Demonstrate effective speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills.
- Participate in structured debates using the Three-Minute Debate Planner format.

Introduction

Definition: A debate is a structured contest of ideas between two sides: Affirmative (supporting the resolution) and Opposing (against the resolution).

- **Purpose:** To explore and resolve issues through structured discussion.
- **Importance:** Encourages critical thinking, effective communication, and informed decision-making.

Structure of a Formal Debate

Teams:

- Affirmative Team: Supports the resolution.
- Opposing Team: Argues against the resolution.

Roles:

- Each team typically has three members.
- Judges evaluate the quality of arguments and performance.
- Audience may participate in post-debate discussions.

Resolution: A specific statement or topic developed for debate.

Debate Preparation Steps

- **Develop the Resolution:** Clearly define the topic to be debated.
- **Organize Teams:** Assign members to Affirmative and Opposing teams.
- **Establish Rules:** Set guidelines, including timelines and speaking order.
- **Research:** Gather information and evidence to support arguments.
- **Anticipate Counter-Arguments:** Prepare rebuttals for opposing points.
- **Plan Speeches:** Determine the order and content of each speaker's presentation.
- **Set Assessment Criteria:** Define how performance will be evaluated.

Conducting the Debate – Timeline

- **Affirmative Speaker 1:** Presents arguments supporting the resolution. (5–10 minutes)
- **Opposing Speaker 1:** Presents arguments opposing the resolution. (5–10 minutes)
- **Affirmative Speaker 2:** Provides further support and addresses opposition points. (5–10 minutes)
- **Opposing Speaker 2:** Provides further opposition and addresses affirmative points. (5–10 minutes)

Conducting the Debate – Timeline

- **Recess:** Short break for teams to prepare rebuttals. (5 minutes)
- **Opposing Rebuttal:** Defends opposing arguments and counters affirmative points. (3–5 minutes)
- **Affirmative Rebuttal:** Defends affirmative arguments and counters opposing points. (3–5 minutes)
- **Closing Statements:** Each team presents final rebuttals and summaries. (3–5 minutes each)

Debate Ground Rules

- No interruptions during speeches.
- Speakers must wait for their turn.
- Speak clearly and at an appropriate pace.
- No new information in rebuttals.
- Judges and audience should take notes throughout.

Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

Dos:

- Wear appropriate attire.
- Arrive early to confirm details.
- Stand confidently when speaking.
- Listen attentively and applaud speakers.
- Prepare and organize cue cards.
- Show respect to all participants.

Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

Don'ts:

- Address judges directly during the debate.
- Use distracting mannerisms or inappropriate language.
- Interrupt other speakers.
- Include false information.
- Use filler words like 'um' and 'er'.
- Disrupt the adjudicator during feedback.

Activity 1 -Step Goal Planner

Instructions:

- **Topic given** by teacher (e.g., “*Mobile phones should be allowed in classrooms*”)
- **Form two teams:** Affirmative & Opposition
- **5 minutes prep time:** Decide speaker roles & key points
- **Debate format:**
 - Each speaker: 1 minute
 - Rebuttals: 30 seconds each
 - Closing statements: 30 seconds each

Conclusion

Recap of key points:

Debate enhances clarity, confidence, and critical thinking.

- Respectful dialogue is essential in disagreements.
- The Three-Minute Debate Planner is a valuable tool for organizing thoughts and arguments efficiently.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this two-hour session, students will be able to:

- Prepare and structure arguments quickly and effectively.
- Participate in formal debates with confidence.
- Utilize critical thinking to analyze and discuss issues.
- Apply debate skills in academic and real-life situations.

Thank You