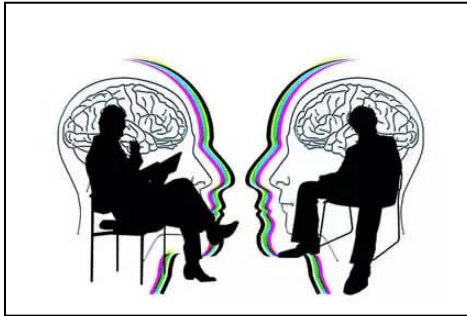


Debating: Presenting Arguments



Sometimes, you will need to engage in a formal discussion or in public speaking and you will have to debate and come up with convincing arguments.

The following are useful expressions for debating:

Welcoming the audience

- Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to this debate.

Stating the issue

- The motion for debate today is ...
- People / Dr. Johnson... believe(s) / feel(s) / insist(s) / think(s)...that...
- Let's first define some important concepts...

Phrases to present the most important point

- This argument/idea is of paramount importance.
- The most important argument for ... is ...
- The main idea/thing is ...
- The most important idea is...
- Most importantly, I want to mention that...
- The primary argument for... is...
- Two/three... important arguments support my point of view...

Conceding an argument

- It's true/obvious/evident that ... However, ...
- While you might say that ..., it's important to remember that ...
- I agree with you that ... On the other hand, ...
- Although/even though it is true that... I believe that...
- I agree/admit/concede that... , but we must remember that...
- I can understand that... Nevertheless, ...

Sequencing a list of arguments

- First of all, I'd like to state ...
- Firstly, ... Secondly, ... Thirdly, ...
- The second argument in favor of ...
- To begin with, ...
- I'd start by...
- For a start, ...
- The next argument I'd like to state is...

Adding an argument to strengthen your point

- In addition to that,...
- You also have to consider...
- Furthermore,...
- Moreover,...
- What is more,...
- I might also add that...
- Perhaps / maybe I should also mention...
- Not to mention the fact that...
- Not only that but also...

Concluding

- Let me recap/recapitulate my point ...
- As a final word, let me summarize my point of view ...
- To reiterate my point of view, ...
- My final thought is ...
- It all boils down to ...
- In a nutshell, what I am trying to say is ...
- To sum up, ...
- Finally, ...