

Practical Assessment Week 10

RMIT University - PCP/APD 2019 Semester 2

Today's skill set: Debate

Debate is a great tool often used by prospective employers, by your superiors to gauge your performance and sometimes it happens in a professional meeting without any prior plans.

To most of us, to debate means talking over others, speaking before others have a chance to do so, being first to convey ideas while in a group discussion. All of these notions are seriously flawed and will land you in a hot soup.

In a professional environment, two most hated categories of people are the ones

- who are obnoxious and loudmouths
- intellectually arrogant

Here are some guidelines for a respectful and professional debate for self-studying: [link](#)
And an interesting TED talk about debating: [link](#)

Usually there are 3-4 sections in a debate:

- 1- Group in favour of the topic speaks for 3-4 minutes
- 2- They stop
- 3- The group against makes a case of rebuttal in 3-4 minutes
- 4- They stop
- 5- Second round starts
- 6- Third round starts

Your tutor will divide you into various debate groups. For each of the following topics we will have a debate. You will witness 2-3 debates in this session:

Debate Topics

Topic #1:

Continual Professional Development (CPD) is a waste of time. We will learn everything we need to know at Uni and during induction at work so there is no point in wasting time and money on CPD throughout our careers.

Topic #2:

Soft skills are not important for IT graduates. Only technical skills are important because if you know how to code everyone will want to hire you.

Topic #3:

We'll all be out of a job soon because AI and robots will replace us. This will happen within our lifetime.

Topic #4:

Some people/governments argue that internet censorship is necessary in certain instances (e.g. child pornography, infringing copyright etc).

How to Run the Debate in Class

1. Students form groups 4 or 6 groups.
2. Each group will have 20 minutes to think. All groups must stop working at 20 minutes.
3. One representative from each group will then stand up or come in front to present their answers. Only one person as first speaker, one as second and one as third – so not all group members will present. Each person has 2 minutes max to talk.
4. Other groups must listen to the debate and no-one should be busy working.
5. Marks will be given according to the assessment criteria.
6. No student or group to comment on analysis of another group.

Tutor Assessment Sheet

This document is to be used during the practical session in order to take note of the performance of each team.

Team Name or Number:

Criteria #1: Preparation for the debate by finding relevant information and forming good arguments in support or refutation of the given position

HD

DI

CR

PA

NN

Comments:

Criteria #2: Clear explanation of the topic, the position of the team and the weakness of the other side

HD

DI

CR

PA

NN

Comments:

Criteria #3: Clear response to the other side's criticism

HD

DI

CR

PA

NN

Comments: