

Public speaking- Lecture 7 (Pr. El Hadari)

What is an argument?

An argument can be defined as one of the most important aspects of public leadership. Real leaders have the power to give solid and convincing arguments. It is the power to persuade others using logic and reason, and meanwhile appealing to emotions. But it should be clearly stated that it's more about logic and reasoning than emotions.

We should not use fallacies while giving reasons. Persuasive argument can stir up the target audience and the jury. In brief, debates are basically about the mind as well as hearts.

An argument should be clear (not confusing), accurate, precise, relevant, broad (able to include more points of view), deep (able to deal with complex points) and logical.

What should debaters avoid?

- 1. Debaters should avoid using fallacies.*
- 2. They should not attack each other. They should not be sarcastic.*
- 3. They should not insult (mock, ridicule) each other in matters of religion, education, occupation, gender, race, social class, skin color. In other words, the focus of the debate should not be on the person but on the argument.*
- 4. The use of such expressions as "in my opinion" should be avoided because everyone knows that it is your opinion. Go straight forward to the point you want to make. Don't beat around the bush.*
- 5. Avoid using stereotypes. Never generalize.*
- 6. Debaters should not interrupt each other. They should listen to each other attentively.*
- 7. In order for the debate to continue, debaters should avoid showing that they are the smartest people in the world.*
- 8. They should not start a debate with the spirit of knowing it all. Modesty is highly required in debating.*
- 9. They should not raise voices.*
- 10. They should not leave the debate until it's over.*

Examples: Debate about the comfort zone

I. Comfort zone is safe:

1. *I don't like to make efforts and take risks. The comfort zone is very relaxing for me.*
2. *I like to do the things I know and I am accustomed to. Thus, why should I take up new challenges?*
3. *In the comfort zone I feel confident and secured. One more thing, thinking inside the box makes me feel flawless. I don't like to make mistakes.*
4. *I try to avoid embarrassment by staying in the comfort zone.*
5. *Comfort zone is the place where I can avoid risks and enjoy myself to the fullest.*
6. *It's good to wait for things to happen instead of creating them.*

II. Comfort zone is dangerous:

1. *Thinking inside the box hampers (hinders/straitjackets) the growth of human beings at the personal and professional levels.*
2. *People cannot change and develop without going through situations where they have to step out of their comfort zone.*
3. *Being all the time in the comfort zone can create a generation of stagnant people who cannot move and take risks and who fear change.*
4. *"It is insanity to keep doing the same thing all the time, expecting different results" As Einstein once said. When people get out of their comfort zone, they can get different results.*
5. *The big enemy of success is staying in the comfort zone. In other words, staying in the box is real stumbling block standing in the path to success and prosperity.*
6. *People who don't think outside the box can become obsolete (outdated). In a world known for constant change. They cannot keep abreast with the changes taking place in different parts of the globe.*
7. *Routine makes life boring. People who have a strong love relationship with their comfort zone have no purpose in life.*

8. *Comfort zone can prevent people from discovering and learning about different life experiences.*