Reference: [AI Can Now Debate with Humans and Sometimes Convince Them, Too](https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/ai-can-now-debate-with-humans-and-sometimes-convince-them-too/)

AI has advanced well enough now to debate with humans and sometimes sway their opinions. Project Debater created by IBM took 7 years to develop and is an AI powered system that can engage in complex debates with humans over a range of different topics. The winning of the debate is determined by taking a poll from the audience before and after the debate. It uses 2 major sources of information in order to prepare for the debates, to which it is given 15 minutes to research and prepare. It uses a massive collection of around 400 million newspaper articles along with a collection of more principle arguments that tries to capture the commonalties between the many different debates that humans have. It was built with an NLP (natural language processing model) and was trained using deep learning and machine learning techniques. It looks for short pieces of text and uses three criteria when selecting them: the relevance to the topic, text that are argumentative in nature, and ones that support our side of the debate. While it can’t remove bias from sources it can somewhat recognize it, but also pulls from a verified library of sources. It also uses Watson speech recognition capabilities to understand what its being articulated by the human while also trying to anticipate what the opposition might argue.

* AI can debate against humans well enough to sway their opinions
* Uses NLP and Watson Speech recognition, along with a huge collection of sources
* It tries to anticipate the opposition’s argument and can recognize bias somewhat