

### Four Modes of Discourse

**Narration:** Telling a story. tells or retells a sequence of events within a particular time frame for a specific purpose and needs a point of view.

**Description:** That which appeals to the five senses- may be informative, impressionistic, organizational, or contain figurative language

**Exposition:** That which explains or informs, used mostly in nonfiction especially articles, essays, and various books.

**Argumentation:** also be referred to as the Assertion-with- Evidence essay.

**\*\*Presenting a position in hopes that the reader will accept an assertion.**

Necessary parts are a clear assertion, qualifying or opposing another's view, and convincing the audience to change its own view.

### Four Standards of Judgment

**Convention of Bilaterality:** Argument is explicitly bilateral: it requires at least two people or two competing messages. The arguer, implicitly or explicitly, is saying that he or she is presenting a message that can be examined by others.

**Convention of Self-Risk:** In argument, there is always the risk of being proven wrong.

**The Fairness Doctrine:** Our system of government, from the community level up to the Congress itself, is based upon the "fairness doctrine." This, in itself, presents the following concept: the idea that debate (argument) ought to be as extended and as complete as possible in order to guarantee that all viewpoints are aired, considered, and defended.

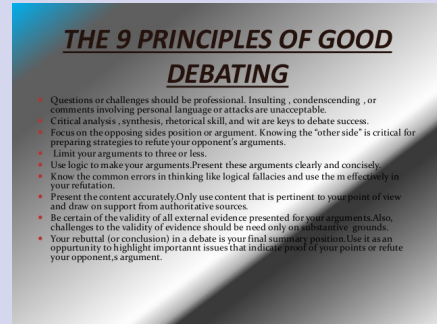
**Commitment to Rationality:** When you argue or debate, a commitment is made to proceed with logic. When you make an assertion, you are saying, "This is what I believe and these are my reasons for that belief." As a debater, your commitment is to giving evidence, examples, data in support of your assertion -- reasons that you believe fully support your claim and should be accepted by the audience or the doubtful.

### Evidence in Argumentation (Facts)

To support your proposition, one must present evidence. There are two (2) types of evidence used in argumentation : **facts and opinions**. **Facts** consist of items that can be verified or proven. There are four (4) categories of facts:

- **By Scientific Measurement;** one measures the and determines the measurements.
- **By the Way Nature Works;** we know that there are specific patterns and established facts;
- **By Observation;** in courts of law, this consists of eyewitness testimony. In research, this might consist of a longitudinal study of a phenomenon carried out over a period of years involving several hundreds or thousands of cases looking for and recording similarities and differences.
- **By Statistics; Results from surveys and reports**

### Good Debating Principles



### Principles

- 1. Questions or challenges should be professional.** Insulting, condescending, or comments involving personal language or attacks are unacceptable.
- 2. Critical analysis, synthesis, rhetorical skill, and wit** are keys to debate success.
- 3. Focus on the opposing side's position or argument.** Knowing the "other side" is critical for preparing strategies to refute your opponent's arguments.
- 4. Limit your arguments to three or less.**
- 5. Use logic to make your arguments.** Present these arguments clearly and concisely.
- 6. Know the common errors in thinking** like logical fallacies and use them effectively in your refutation.
- 7. Present the content accurately.** Only use content that is pertinent to your point of view and draw on support from authoritative sources.
- 8. Be certain of the validity of all external evidence presented** for your arguments. Also, challenges to the validity of evidence should be made only on substantive grounds.
- 9. Your rebuttal (or conclusion) in a debate is your final summary position.** Use it as an opportunity to highlight important issues that indicate proof of your points or refute your opponent's argument.



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 Page 1 of 1.

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