**Harvard University**

**Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning**

**Parts of a Debate**

Introduction

* Build rapport—connect with the audience
* Statement of facts: what data are relevant to this debate?
* Stakes: why does this matter?

Exposition

* What is *your* position in this debate?
* What is your evidence for it?

Refutation

* What is your opponent likely to argue?
* What is the basis for her argument?
* Why is it less persuasive than your position?

Conclusion

* What have you just argued?
* Why does it matter?
* Why have you won?

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