

Matter – Scored out of 40 points

Matter is simply what you say; it is essentially the meat of your speech. It is divided into your arguments and your examples.

Your argument is a statement like: "We are right because...." In the topic "That Science is for Nerds" your argument could be: "Only nerds are smart enough to understand Science". An argument must prove your case in itself and not rely on another person's speech.

An example is a piece of evidence that supports an argument. If our argument is: "Only nerds are smart enough to understand Science", then an example might be: "Einstein's theory of relativity is a very complicated formula and can only be truly understood by a person with an IQ over 160 points."

Your speech should not just be a long list of examples. A debate is not won by creating the longest list of facts.

Manner – Scored out of 40 points

Manner is how you come across to the audience - basically your performance. Everyone is different and you will have to work very hard on your manner to come across as confident, interesting and animated. This is because very few people are fortunate enough to be able to excite an audience with little effort. Here are some areas that are important:

1. CUE CARDS.
2. EYE CONTACT.
3. VOICE.
4. BODY.
5. NERVOUS HABITS.
6. ELOCUTION & GRAMMAR.

Method – Scored out of 20 points

Method is how you organise what you say - the structure. It is what makes an argument into a debate.

1. *TEAMWORK*: Everyone must work together. All speakers need to be consistent with what has already been said, and with what the other members of their team will say.
2. *JOBS OF SPEAKERS*: Each individual speaker in the debate has certain jobs which must be completed during the course of their speech.
3. *TOTAL TIME*: For each year level, there is a certain amount of time that each speaker must speak for.
4. *INTERNAL TIMING*: Each speaker must spend the appropriate amount of time on each part of their speech – e.g. much more time will be spent on giving arguments than a definition.
5. *REBUTTAL*: Each speaker, except for the first affirmative, needs to have rebuttal. This is where each speaker shows why the opposition's argument is wrong.