



Debate Speech Examples (Annotated)

Example 1: First Speaker for the Affirmative Team (British Parliamentary)

Script with Annotations

“Good morning/afternoon, honorable judges, fellow debaters, and audience. My name is [Name], and I am the first speaker for the Government.”

Annotation: Standard opening greeting. Establishes speaker identity and team role.

“Today, we affirm the motion: ‘This House believes that social media does more harm than good.’”

Annotation: Clearly states the motion and your team’s position. This is crucial for clarity.

“Our team will argue that social media increases mental health issues, spreads misinformation, and erodes meaningful social interaction.”

Annotation: Outlines the main points. Gives a roadmap for judges and the audience.

“Firstly, studies show a strong correlation between social media use and anxiety, depression, and loneliness, especially among teenagers.”

Annotation: Introduces the first content point. Evidence-based claims strengthen credibility.

“Secondly, social media platforms often amplify misinformation. For example, during the pandemic, false medical advice spread rapidly online, endangering public health.”

Annotation: Second argument with a concrete example. Adds weight to your case.

“Thirdly, while social media connects people superficially, it reduces the quality of face-to-face interactions, weakening social bonds.”

Annotation: Third point with logical explanation. Keeps structure clear and persuasive.

“In conclusion, social media does more harm than good by negatively impacting mental health, spreading misinformation, and weakening social bonds. We urge the House to

support this motion.”

Annotation: Summarizes arguments and reinforces team stance. Strong, clear closing.

Example 2: Negative Team Rebuttal Opening (Policy Debate)

Script with Annotations

“Honorable judges, thank you to the affirmative for their presentation. I am [Name], first speaker for the Negative Team.”

Annotation: Polite acknowledgment of the opposing team while establishing your identity.

“We do not contest the fact that social media can have some benefits. However, we will show that the affirmative’s arguments are overstated and ignore critical nuances.”

Annotation: Concedes minor points strategically while setting up the negative stance.

“Firstly, regarding mental health, research indicates that the relationship between social media and anxiety is correlational, not causal. Many users benefit from online support networks.”

Annotation: Rebuttal to the affirmative’s first point. Focuses on evidence and nuance.

“Secondly, while misinformation exists, platforms are increasingly implementing fact-checking tools and community guidelines, reducing harm.”

Annotation: Counter-argument with a real-world example to weaken the affirmative’s claim.

“Finally, social media also fosters social activism, education, and global connectivity benefits that the affirmative has ignored.”

Annotation: Introduces a positive angle for the negative side, showing balance and strategic thinking.

“In conclusion, while social media has potential drawbacks, its positive contributions outweigh the harms. We urge the House to reject the motion.”

Annotation: Summarizes the rebuttal and reinforces your position clearly.

Example 3: Lincoln-Douglas (Value-Based) Opening

Script with Annotations

“Good afternoon, judges. I am [Name], and I affirm the resolution: ‘Civil disobedience is morally justified in a democracy.’”

Annotation: Clear introduction and statement of stance.

“I will argue that civil disobedience is morally justified because it upholds the core democratic value of justice.”

Annotation: Establishes the value framework for the debate, which is central in the Lincoln-Douglas style.

“First, when laws perpetuate injustice, citizens have a moral duty to challenge them. Historical examples, such as the Civil Rights Movement, demonstrate this principle in action.”

Annotation: Presents the first argument with historical evidence to support the value claim.

“Second, civil disobedience encourages societal reflection and reform, which strengthens democracy over time.”

Annotation: Explains the broader impact of the action, tying it to the value of democratic integrity.

“Counterarguments suggest that breaking the law undermines order, but moral obligation to justice outweighs strict legal adherence.”

Annotation: Preemptively addresses potential opposing arguments, showing critical thinking.

“In conclusion, civil disobedience is morally justified as it advances justice, the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Therefore, I affirm the resolution.”

Annotation: Strong value-based closing, reinforcing the core principle.

For more information on Debate, Speeches, or Research Papers, explore our StudyUnicorn.com official site. You can also check out our [Complete Guide to Debates](#).