



How to Start a Debate Opening Templates & Script Starters

How to Use This PDF

This quick guide is designed for students, teachers, and debate beginners who want to confidently start a debate speech. Each template includes:

- A ready-to-fill script,
- Tips for improvement, and
- Space to add your own notes.

You can print this PDF or fill it digitally.

Template 1: Basic Classroom Debate Opening

Perfect for school or beginner-level debates

"Good morning, everyone. My name is _____, and today I'll be speaking on the topic _____.

I firmly believe that _____.

Firstly, _____.

Secondly, _____.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that _____ because _____. Thank you."

Tips for Students:

- Keep sentences short and easy to remember.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Smile and maintain eye contact.
- Use simple examples your classmates can relate to.

Your Notes:

Template 2: Competitive Team Debate Opening (Affirmative Side)

For interschool or college-level tournaments

"Honourable judges, respected opponents, and my fellow teammates, good morning.

We, the affirmative team, stand firmly in support of the motion that _____.

My role as the first speaker is to define the key terms, present our stance, and outline our main arguments.

Our team will present three main points:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Today, I will focus on _____ and _____.

We believe that by _____, we can clearly prove that the motion must stand.

Thank you."

Tips for Students:

- Define all key terms early.
- Stay aligned with your teammates' structure.
- Use confident body language.
- End with a strong, assertive closing line.

Your Notes:

Template 3: Competitive Team Debate Opening (Negative Side)

For formal or tournament settings

"Honourable judges, worthy opponents, and audience, good morning.

We, the negative team, strongly oppose the motion that _____.

The affirmative has argued that _____, however, we will show that _____.

Our main arguments are:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

As the first speaker, I will focus on _____. My teammate(s) will later address _____.

For these reasons, we reject the motion. Thank you."

Tips for Students:

- Listen closely to the affirmative's arguments before responding.
- Use polite rebuttal phrases ("With due respect, I disagree because...").
- Keep a calm tone even under pressure.
- Conclude by restating your position clearly.

Your Notes:

Bonus Tips: Useful Phrases for Any Debate

Purpose	Example Phrase
Starting Strong	"I stand before you to express..." / "Let us consider..."
Agreeing	"I completely support the point that..."
Disagreeing	"With due respect, I must disagree because..."
Introducing Evidence	"According to research..." / "Statistics show that..."

Transitioning	"Moving on to my next point..."
Concluding	"Therefore, it is clear that..." / "To sum up our stance..."

Final Advice

- Confidence > Perfection, even the best debaters started nervously.
- Know your topic inside out.
- Listen as much as you speak.
- Debate is not about winning an argument, it's about sharing ideas with respect.

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](#).