

Debating for Juniors

WHAT IS A DEBATE?

A glance at a dictionary gives us a definition of a debate: “A polite verbal battle”. Two groups of three people take opposite sides on a subject that has two opposing points of view.

A debate has a clear set of rules and a set procedure; each side gets the chance to present their own points of view and arguments, and to respond to the opposite team’s arguments too.

There are rules which prevent people from interrupting whenever they feel like it and which allows each side’s argument to develop.

Each speaker in a debate has a clearly defined job to do; they also have a time limit and get awarded points for how well they do their jobs (i.e. present their team’s argument).