



Arizona Model United Nations

A Short Guide to Formal Debate

During debate, it is essential to remember to be polite and formal at all times. Become familiar with some of the vocabulary and phrases below so that addressing delegates formally will become second nature to you. Here is a list of possible ways in which to frame your speeches and points.

Speeches begin with:

- “Mr./Ms./Honorable Chairman/President, ladies and gentlemen of the house/body . . .”
- “Honorable delegates, Chile would like to express its . . .”
- “The United Arab Emirates urges this body to lend its support by voting for/against...”
- “As my (dear, learned, venerable) friend Benin has told the house, Iran would like to reiterate...”
- Or any other relevant variation...remember, **always always always** in third person!

Points of Inquiry should begin with:

- “Is the speaker aware that...?”
- “How does the USA feel that clause 3 would...?”
- “Does Brazil (not) agree with Chile that...?”
- “The speaker stated in his speech...Does Djibouti (not) realize that...?”
- Once again, in third person and **always in the form of a question**.

Points of Information should begin with:

- “Mr. (or Madam) Chairman, is it not the case that...?”
- “Honorable Chairman, the United Arab Emirates would like to know...”

Points of Order should be used sparingly:

Points of order are meant to call attention to an offense in the rules, usually because the chair overlooked it. Rather than emphasize his or her mistake, use a point of information to ask a question. Other appropriate uses for a point of order include if you cannot hear the delegate speaking or feel that another delegate is personally attacking your country.

- “Point of Order! Honorable Chair, could you please instruct the delegate from Iran to remain diplomatically courteous when speaking about Israel?”



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Tactics and Strategies

- Keep in role. STAY IN CHARACTER AT ALL TIMES.
- Remember to be diplomatic and respectful.
- Remember to address points and motions through the chair and to show respect for the chair.
- Cement your relationships outside of committee in order to be a leader in the committee. The Delegate Dance is the perfect place to chat with your fellow delegates informally.
- Don't forget that you are representing the policies of YOUR COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT, NOT THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTRY.
- Don't focus on the negative things going on in your country. An ambassador would never "bash" their own country.
- Be well-researched and know about your country's government and foreign policy!
- There are lots of opportunities for strategy and politicizing, so be knowledgeable about the topics and rules of debate
- Take an active role right away with a speech or motion.
- **At first caucus:** (1) call your block together, literally yell "Africa come here" or "South America meet over here" (2) have at least 2 ideas ready for a solution (3) LISTEN as well as talk - analyze others solutions.
- **In later caucuses:** keep your block moving. Time for a resolution? Switch topics?
- **After each caucus:** make a speech telling the body what you are working on- this way your block claims the idea. Make sure everyone gets credit for the work they do.
- **In formal debate:** Make speeches frequently.
- **Negative Response with Point of Inquiry:** When someone makes a speech and either discredits your resolutions/ideas or makes a statement contrary to your country's beliefs you can make a point of inquiry to deconstruct their argument.
- **Positive Response with Point of Inquiry:** When someone makes a speech and is an ally of yours you can use a point of inquiry to help them out. If this person is being bombarded with tough questions (via points of inquiry) then you can raise a point of inquiry and ask a question that plays into the strong aspects of their speech. Another situation to do this is when your ally gives a speech and leaves out vital information that supports the argument. In this case, raise a point of inquiry and say "isn't it also true that . . ."
- If unsure how to vote, abstain from the order and see how your bloc is voting
- Realize that every country has to work within certain domestic constraints, which means everyone's got to be willing to budge at least a little
- Know what you're talking about. Have research and hard facts to back up all ideas