



Parli Debate in a Nutshell

What the Debate Should Look Like:

Prime Minister Constructive **7 min**

*Government must define the motion specifically and set up the argument – this team has the burden of proof**

Leader of Opposition Constructive **8 min**

Refutes the Government's case and begins the Opposition's case against the motion

Member of Gov Constructive **8 min**

Reestablishes and expands the Government's case

Member of Opp Constructive **8 min**

Continues the Opposition's case against the Government

Leader of Opp Rebuttal **4 min**

Wraps up the argument of the Opposition

Prime Minister Rebuttal **5 min**

Wraps up the support of the motion

Interactive Parts of the Debate:

1. Point of Information – when a debater asks a question or clarification from the opponent (these may come at any time EXCEPT for protected time)
2. Point of Order – when a debater thinks that a rule of Parli Debate has been broken (these may come at ANY time and the clock should be stopped while the students and judge decide how to proceed)
3. Point of Personal Privilege – when a debater feels personally insulted or offended by something said (these are rare and should be used with discretion; the clock also stops)

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Some Things to Remember:

Burden of Proof

The Government team has this...in other words, if they do NOT prove their motion (or that their proposition is more true than false) then they should NOT win the debate.

Protected Time

Within each speech there is something known as “protected time.” Protected time is the first and last minute of each speech. In other words, no questions or comments may be taken during protected time (only the speaker whose turn it is may speak during protected time).

Evidence

This style of debate should NOT use statistics. Everything mentioned as evidence throughout the debate should be public knowledge (available to all – things you might have viewed on the news).

“Debatability”

The Government’s case and motion needs to be debatable meaning the Government must interpret the resolution in a way that reflects a fair division of ground. A **“tight case”** is when the Government team changes the motion into a non-debatable topic. (An example would be “Muslim extremists do not like Americans” or “There should be laws against texting while driving to prevent fatalities”)

FAQs

Q: What happens if a rule is broken during the debate?

A: Usually the students will work through the issues during the debate right in front of you. You as judge get the final say, so go with your gut (and use the rule sheet provided for reference).

Q: Is there ever a time when the clock should stop during a debate?

A: The clock only stops during Points of Order & Points of Personal Privilege – otherwise it should continue to run.

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