



DEMOCRACY DEBATE HUB TOOLKIT

Framework for fair, open, and
informed democratic discussions



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INTRODUCTION.

The Debate Democracy Hub project is to provide a group of young Moldovan (14-16 years old) with a framework to develop their awareness, gain democratic mindsets, debating and listening skills as well as exchange experiences with other fellow youth from different parts and backgrounds of Moldova.

The main activities are developing engaging inclusive and youth friendly training materials, selection, preparation and training of youth workers and participants, creation and running of Democracy Debate Hubs, online Regional Debate Championship and National Democracy Debate camp.

The project outcomes include a select group of youth with the awareness, capacity and drive to contribute to making the change they want to see in their society, and a strengthened partnership between Moldovan and Danish partners.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS.



Crossing Borders

Crossing Borders (CB) is a non-profit, civil society organisation that has been promoting unity in diversity, intercultural meeting, and international exchange toward realising our common humanity and mutual dependency in a global community for more than two decades. CB educates and empowers youth to become active global citizens. Across cultures and professions, we provide platforms for young people to cross-fertilize ideas and form global associations, and networks worldwide. In a dialogue-based learning environment where all participants are encouraged to participate and learn from and with one another, we enable youth to share their best ideas, best products, and best practices.



MilleniuM - Training and Development Institute

MilleniuM - Training and Development Institute is a non-profit organisation that implements programs and projects in the field of personal, organizational and community development whose mission of MilleniuM is to promote quality non-formal education by encouraging civic initiative and youth work at local level, by contributing to personal, organizational and community development, and the transforming of the concept of collaboration and partnership into a current practice of associative life in the Republic of Moldova.





PART 01

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

"Democracy" = dēmokratia: dēmos (people) + kratos (power). People have the power / rule by the people

DEMOCRACY TODAY.

A key component of contemporary society is democracy, which embodies the ideas of group decision-making and individual empowerment.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACIES OR DIRECT DEMOCRACIES.



Source: Gwen Keral illustration for Viva Magazine

In Representative Democracies the citizens elect delegates who advocate for their interests, with frequent elections to ensure accountability. It is founded on popular sovereignty and supports a diverse society that balances majority views with minority rights, thanks in part to power separation, which allows for judicial scrutiny to defend minorities. The majority of representative democracies also incorporate direct democracy components such as political debates, referendums, and public consultations.

Pros:

- **Efficiency** - The legislative process can be more streamlined and efficient when elected representatives make choices, eliminating the possible delays of seeking direct opinion from the full electorate on every topic.
- **Expertise** - Representatives, who frequently have particular expertise or experience in government, may make educated judgments on complicated problems that the broader public may not be fully aware of.
- **Protection of Minorities** - Minority rights can be safeguarded in a well-structured representational democracy against possible majority tyranny.

Cons:

- On the other hand, Direct democracy, seen as the 'purest form' of democracy, allows individuals to vote directly on laws and policies rather than via representatives, allowing for legislative proposals and revisions and fostering public discourse.



- While it improves openness, accountability, and collaboration, it necessitates an informed people and risks majority tyranny perhaps ignoring minority rights. Switzerland is an example of a hybrid system, incorporating aspects of direct and representative democracy.

Pros:

- **Transparency** - Direct democracy is, without a doubt, the most transparent type of democracy. Because major problems are discussed and debated in public, there are no "backroom deals" to determine the outcome or scope of legislation. And because it is the people who determine whether a proposition becomes legislation, they carry all responsibility for the outcome.
- **Accountability** - In terms of accountability, direct democracy guarantees that there is no ambiguity about who is responsible for a country's laws or programs' achievements or failures. Furthermore, the government cannot claim ignorance of the people's will, because political lobbying and other forms of intervention in the legislative process are low or non-existent.
- **Cooperation** - Direct democracy enables citizens to connect and collaborate with one another, not just to analyze current laws, but also to develop legislation that best benefits the greatest number of people and so has the highest chance of garnering majority support. And when individuals are certain that their opinions will be heard, they are significantly more willing to engage and collaborate with their fellow citizens.

Cons:

- **Indecision** - Simply said, there are many more people now than when direct democratic systems were in place. Nothing would ever get done if they all had to vote on every policy idea or legislative proposal. It simply would not be an efficient system, and as a result, it may potentially undermine the government's efficacy.
- **Difficulties in Participation** - In today's fast-paced world, when professional commitments, household responsibilities, and personal interests already stretch our time thin, expecting individuals to participate in every political decision is unrealistic. In a direct democracy, the constant demand for attention and decision-making may lead to public disengagement, since individuals may find it difficult to retain prolonged interest or simply be unable of handling such a large commitment alongside their everyday life.
- **Tension** - Significant decisions automatically promote friction among individuals with opposing viewpoints. The weight of these judgments tends to heighten the tension, and an increase in the frequency of such decisions exponentially multiplies this strain. Implementing direct democracy in modern society has the potential to intensify societal strife, resulting in an atmosphere fraught with heightened antagonism and, perhaps, an escalation in hostility and war.



TWO KEY PRINCIPLES.

People vote to choose who will govern their country.

↓

Individual Autonomy (The capacity to decide for oneself and pursue a course of action in one's life)

↓

Equality in participation (The idea that everyone should have the same opportunity to influence the decisions that affect people in society.)



Source: vectormine

There are many different types of democratic governments around the world, so sometimes it is easier to understand what democracy is by looking at what it isn't. Democracy is not a system where one person, like a dictator, has all the power (that's called autocracy). It's also not an oligarchy, where only a small group of people are in charge. Democracy isn't just about letting the majority make all the decisions either, especially if that means ignoring the needs of smaller groups. In a true democracy, the government works for all the people, trying to follow what the people want as a whole.

“Of the people, by the people, for the people”-Abraham Lincoln

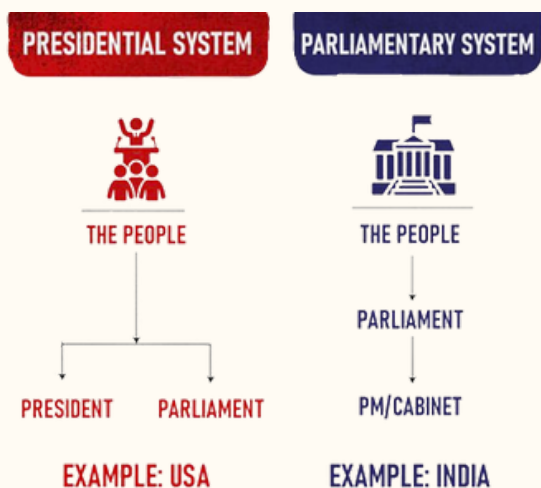


Source: ocondutordotempo



Modern democratic governments can be different in many ways, but they also have some things in common. Political experts have looked at these similarities to identify a few main types of democratic systems.

PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEMS.



Source: *finologylegal*

In a presidential system, like in the United States, the president is both the head of the government and the head of the country. The president is elected separately from the lawmakers (legislature).

In a parliamentary system, like in the United Kingdom, the head of government is the prime minister. The prime minister isn't elected separately. Instead, the party that wins the most seats in the legislature forms the government, and its leader becomes prime minister.

In many parliamentary countries, there is also a head of state, like a king, queen, or president, but they usually don't have much power and mostly perform ceremonial duties.

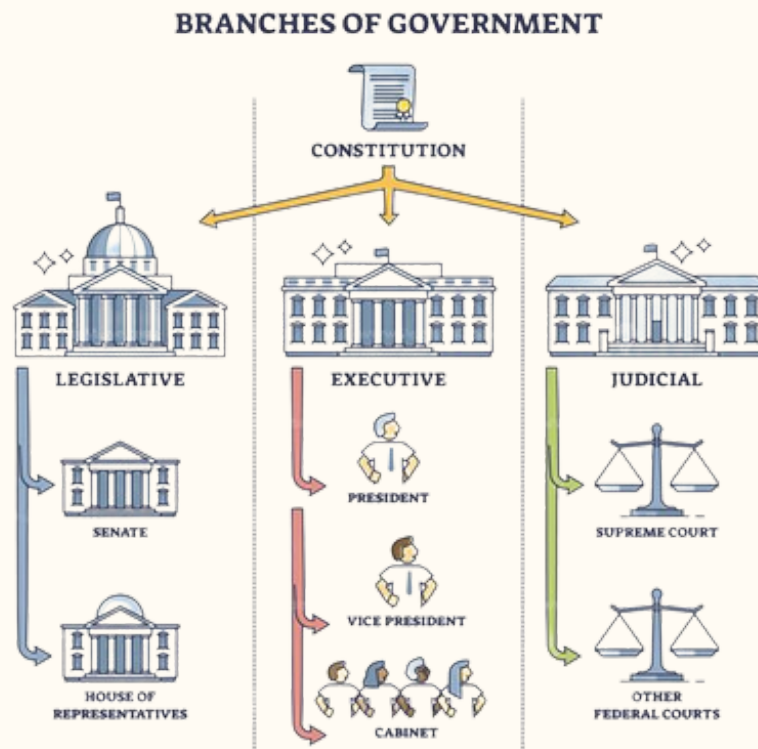
In a mixed system, like in France, there is both a president and a prime minister. The president is the head of state and has important powers, like choosing the prime minister and cabinet members to run the government.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

Democratic institutions are the structures and processes inside a democratic government that assure citizen representation, political leaders' accountability, and the separation of powers. These institutions are critical to the operation of a democracy because they create the mechanisms by which laws are enacted, enforced, and interpreted, as well as the methods by which public officials are held responsible. All are regulated by the rule of law and a constitution, work both independently and together to guarantee that the government is effective, responsible, and representative of the will of the people. Their correct operation is critical to a democracy's health and sustainability.



BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.



Source: vectormine

Legislative Branch:

This is the branch of government in charge of enacting new laws as well as changing or repealing current ones. Legislators are normally chosen by the people as representatives or senators. They represent the people's interests and will, propose legislation, discuss the merits of proposed legislation, and vote to make it law.

Executive Branch:

The executive branch oversees putting the legislature's laws into action and enforcing them. It is led by the President (in presidential systems) or the Prime Minister (in parliamentary systems), who is frequently the head of state or head of government. The executive also oversees the functioning of numerous government departments and agencies, conducts foreign policy, negotiates with other countries, and conducts foreign policy. The executive is either directly elected by the people or indirectly elected through a legislature in many democracies.

Judiciary Branch:

By hearing and determining legal cases, this branch interprets and applies the law. Courts are apart from the rest of the government, ensuring that decisions are free of political interference and that everyone is treated equally under the law. The judiciary safeguards the rights and liberties granted by a country's constitution and mediates disputes between people, entities, or the state. Many legal systems include many levels of courts, including appellate courts and a supreme court.



ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Free Press/Media:

A free press, albeit not a part of government, is a crucial institution in a democratic society. The media serves as a watchdog, alerting individuals about their government's actions, exposing corrupt or unethical behavior, and offering a forum for varied opinions. Their duty is to enlighten the public so that citizens may make informed judgments regarding their leaders and policies.

Civil Society Organizations:

Non-governmental organizations such as advocacy groups, non-profits, labor unions, and community groups fall into this category. They are crucial in democracies because they represent specific interests and problems to the government, mobilize individuals, and hold leaders responsible.

Electoral Commissions:

In a democracy, independent electoral commissioners are in charge of supervising the election process. They oversee voter registration, polling station operations, vote counting, and winner announcements. Their primary objective is to ensure free and fair elections.

HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY.

In history, there have been two main types of democracy: "direct democracy" and "representative democracy." Direct democracy happened in small places like tribes or city-states, where almost all citizens could come together in one group. They would talk about problems and vote on laws or decisions.

Representative democracy started in bigger places, like the countries that formed in Europe and North America in the 1700s. Since there were too many people for everyone to meet together, citizens chose a smaller group of representatives. These representatives meet to make laws and decisions for everyone.

Ancient Greece

During the classical period (about the 5th and 4th centuries BCE), Greece wasn't a single country like it is today. Instead, it was made up of hundreds of small city-states, each with its own land. One of the most famous city-states, Athens, created a form of democracy around 500 BCE under a leader named Cleisthenes. This democracy lasted for nearly 200 years. Because Athens was small, the people there practiced direct democracy, where citizens could directly participate in making decisions. The main part of their government was the Assembly, which met 40 times a year on a hill called the Pnyx. Any adult male citizen could join the Assembly, though they didn't have to. Women, children, foreigners, and enslaved people were not allowed to take part. Only about 12 percent of the people living in Athens were adult male citizens.





The Assembly could make important decisions after discussing issues presented by a smaller group called the Council of Five Hundred. Everyone in the Assembly could share their opinions, and then a vote was held by raising hands. A simple majority won the vote.

In 321 BCE, Athens was taken over by Macedonia, led by Alexander the Great. After that, only wealthy citizens could participate in the Assembly. Later, in 146 BCE, Athens was conquered by the Romans, which brought an end to what was left of Athenian democracy.

Ancient Rome

Around the same time that Athens had democracy, the city-state of Rome also developed a form of government that they called a republic. This word comes from *res publica*, meaning “the thing that belongs to the people.” Roman democracy lasted until the end of the 1st century BCE, when Rome became an empire ruled by emperors.

The Roman government during the Republic was a complicated form of democracy. There were several assemblies where citizens met, mostly in the Forum, a large open area in the center of Rome. Different assemblies represented different groups, like the tribes of the city, the military, and the plebeians (common people). The Senate was a very powerful group of lawmakers, chosen mostly from the wealthy patrician class. There were also two consuls, who acted like the heads of state. They were chosen by the Senate and elected by the military assembly.

Like in Athens, only adult male citizens could vote in the Roman assemblies, but they voted as part of groups, not as individuals. As Rome expanded and gave citizenship to more people, many citizens lived far away from the city of Rome and couldn't participate in the assemblies. This meant that, in later years, most Roman citizens were left out of the democratic process.



DEMOCRACY PRINCIPLES.



PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS

People can influence the course of their government through democracy by voting directly on legislation in direct democracies or by electing representatives in representative systems. Active involvement comprises more than simply voting; it also includes public conversation, town hall meetings, and peaceful demonstrations, all of which are important in informing voting decisions. Citizens' organizations and civil society play a critical role in promoting these activities for active public participation.



EQUALITY

In a democracy, essential equality means that there is no discrimination based on race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, and that all citizens have equal access to all rights, including the ability to vote. Every vote must be given equal weight, regardless of wealth or influence.



ACCOUNTABILITY

The people empower elected leaders in democracies to improve communities while remaining responsible and avoiding power abuse for personal gain. Authoritarian governments can conceal corruption during elections by controlling the media and suppressing civic groups.



TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is required to ensure that the public knows government actions, policy efficacy, and any possible misbehaviour. Government information should be freely available, with open avenues for the media and the public to challenge lawmakers and the ability to operate for transparency-focused NGOs.



POLITICAL TOLERANCE

While democracy prioritizes majority rule, minority rights are as important and must be protected. Their perspectives, even if they do not win elections, should be spoken and considered because democracy benefits from different ideas and free discourse. Suppressing minority perspectives eventually hampers the growth of the majority.



MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

Citizens in a real democracy require several political parties to select from during elections, ensuring alternatives and allowing power changes and new debates when opponents win. A single-party system is often associated with tyranny, while there are notable democratic outliers.



CONTROL OVER THE ABUSE OF POWER

Democracy necessitates widespread commitment, including citizens' continued support and politicians' adherence to norms and public duty. Abuse occurs when governments believe they are above the law or favor specific groups, as is frequently observed internationally and increasingly in Europe. While complete protection is unachievable, measures such as power sharing among government institutions, free elections, and media independence and election fairness help defend democracy from such abuses.



FREEDOM OF ECONOMY

Individuals in a democracy have the freedom to select their life pathways, including education, employment, and personal activities, without government interference, as long as they follow the law. This economic liberty is essential for strong communities and national economies.



BILL OF RIGHTS

A bill of rights, which is typically constitutional, specifies people's liberties, such as free speech and assembly, and protects them from governmental power abuse. Individuals can seek legal redress if they think their rights have been infringed.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights, which are universal regardless of domicile, are sometimes protected by a bill of rights. These rights, including as freedom of expression, association, and assembly, are especially important in democracies since they are essential to their functioning.



FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Change is both natural and desirable in democracy, as it reflects altering public opinion. Regular, free, and fair elections are so critical, necessitating precise pre-vote information, open discussion, equal polling access, vote equality, and correct vote counting without arbitrary government scheduling.



FREE COURTS

Disputes are unavoidable in democracies, demanding an independent court for fair settlement. Judges, like referees, must apply the rules fairly. When the government prejudices the courts or ignores their judgements, democracy suffers.



ACCEPTING ELECTION RESULTS

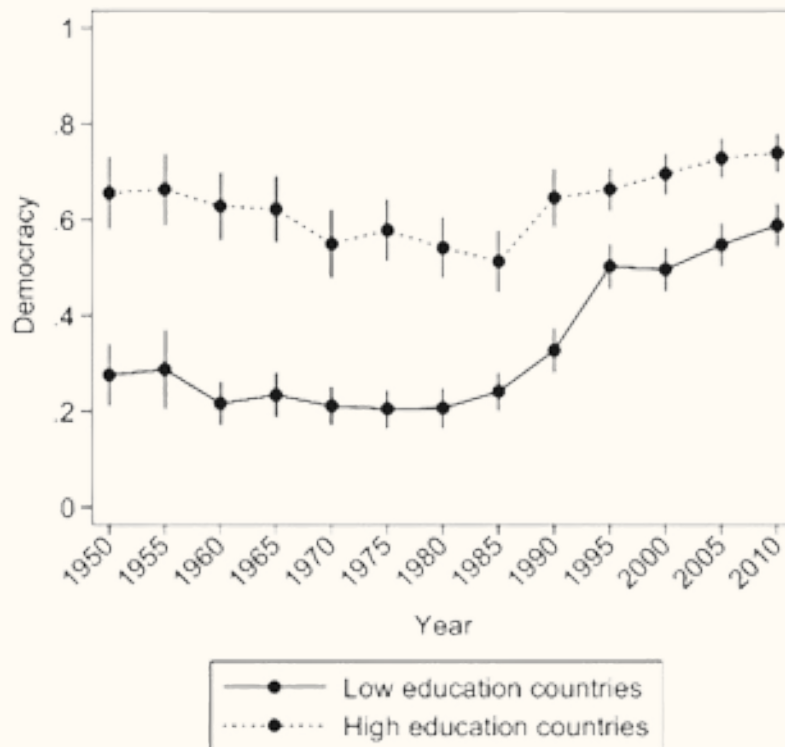
When elections are lost, people in power must yield and stand aside peacefully, admitting that their views currently lack majority support but maintaining constructive public involvement.



RULE OF LAW

The rule of law is mandated by democracy, assuring equitable application to everyone and necessitating government obedience. It preserves rights, freedoms, and democratic processes by enforcing laws equitably and resolving disputes through an independent court.

WHAT DO WE NEED FOR DEMOCRACY TO WORK?



Source: Alemán, E., & Kim, Y. (2015). *The democratizing effect of education*. *Research & Politics*, 2(4).

- Education and a strong school system.
- To select leaders wisely and fight back against the tyrannical instincts of those in power.
- To be able to understand, maintain, and protect their rights, so that governments cannot usurp authority and devolve into despotism – which is when politicians become cruel and are allowed to do what they want.
- Schooling teaches people to interact with others and raises the benefits of civic participation, including voting and organizing. Going to school helps us understand how to interact with other people.

“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

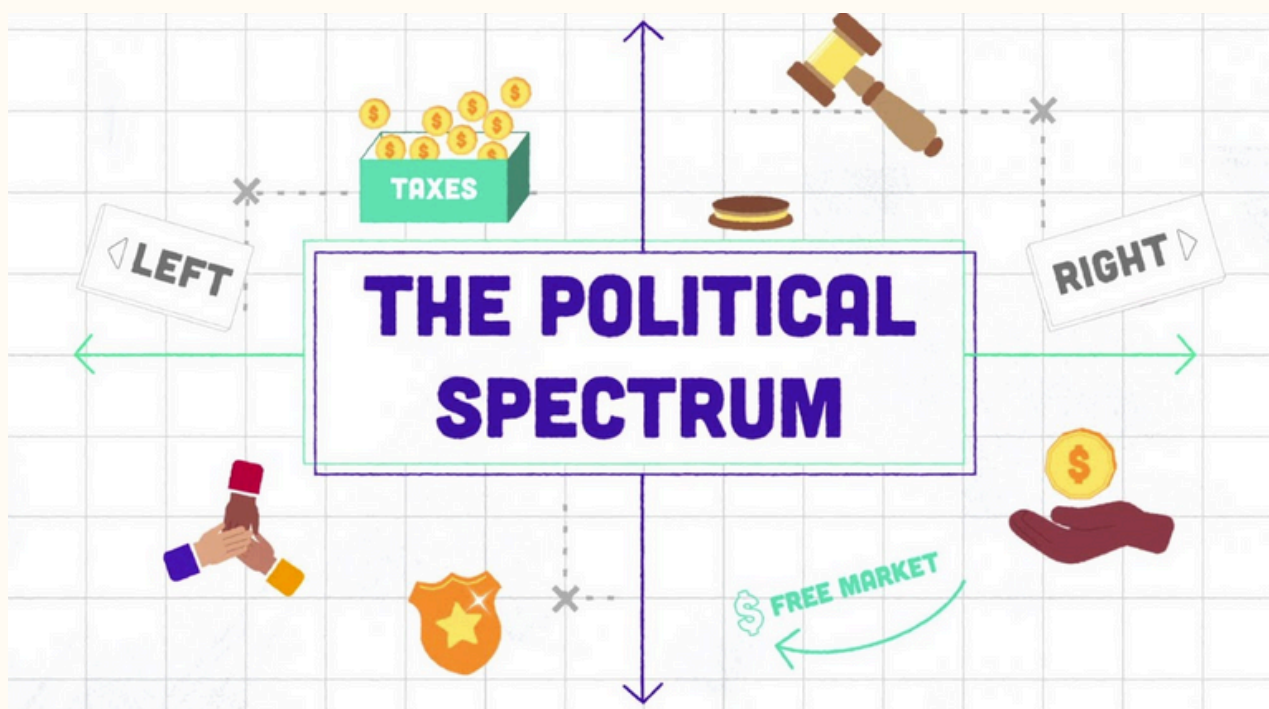
-Thomas Jefferson



ROLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The great majority of modern constitutions explain the underlying principles of the state, the institutions and procedures of governance, and individuals' fundamental rights in a higher law that cannot be modified unilaterally by an ordinary legislative act. Any broadly accepted working definition of a constitution would most likely describe it as a set of fundamental legal-political rules that:

- Are binding for everyone in the state, including ordinary law-making institutions,
- Concern the structure and operation of government institutions, political principles, and citizens' rights,
- Are founded on substantial popular support,
- Are more difficult to amend than regular laws (requiring a two-thirds majority vote or referendum),
- Meet the globally acknowledged standards for a democratic system in terms of representation and human rights.



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJA3EhyVPc0>



POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR ROLE.

A political party is an organized collection of individuals who share at least substantially comparable political goals and ideals and strive to influence public policy by electing candidates to public office. In a durable and well-functioning democracy, parties tend to be profoundly and permanently rooted in various substructures of society. They are viewed as essential to the operation of any contemporary democratic political system because they connect governmental institutions to the components of civic life in a free and fair society.

In a democracy, political parties carry out important duties including:

- Identifying and communicating public policy priorities, civic needs, and concerns highlighted by members and supporters.
- Connecting and teaching voters about the operation of the political and electoral systems, as well as the formation of broad political ideals.
- Reconciling divergent demands and transforming them into broad policy.
- Activating and mobilizing individuals to participate in political decision-making and translating their perspectives into feasible policy solutions.
- Channeling public opinion from individuals to government.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

In a democratic system, public engagement is critical because it guarantees that government policies are aligned with citizen welfare and promotes informed decision-making, collective action, and accountability. Beyond its inherent democratic value, citizen participation is essential in pushing systemic change and empowering individuals. It promotes active citizenship above passive citizenship, allowing for locally-led, issue-driven activities that solve actual community needs. This consistent participation not only keeps authorities accountable, but it also fosters a dynamic democratic culture, ensuring that the system stays responsive and representational of the people's desire.

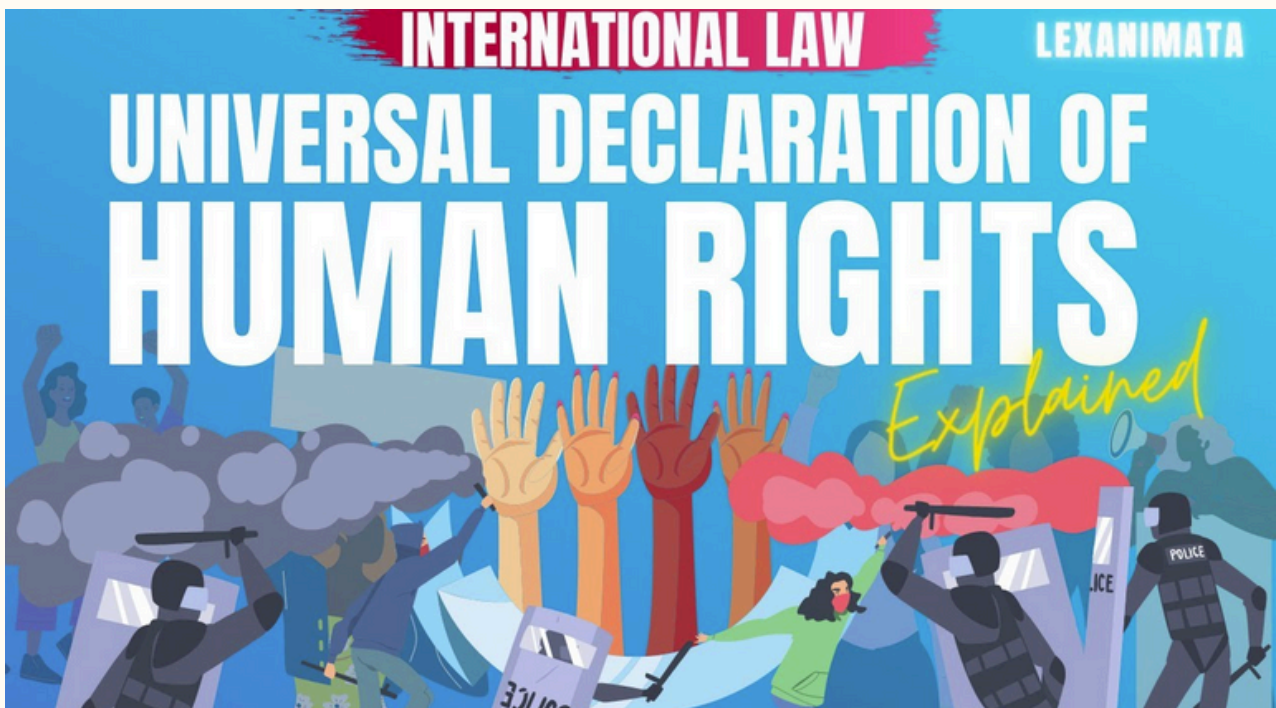
WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights are the rights that we basically have because we exist as human beings; they are not guaranteed by any state. These universal rights are inherent to all of us, regardless of nationality, gender, ethnic or national origin, colour, religion, language or any other status.



WHERE ARE THEY COLLECTED?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

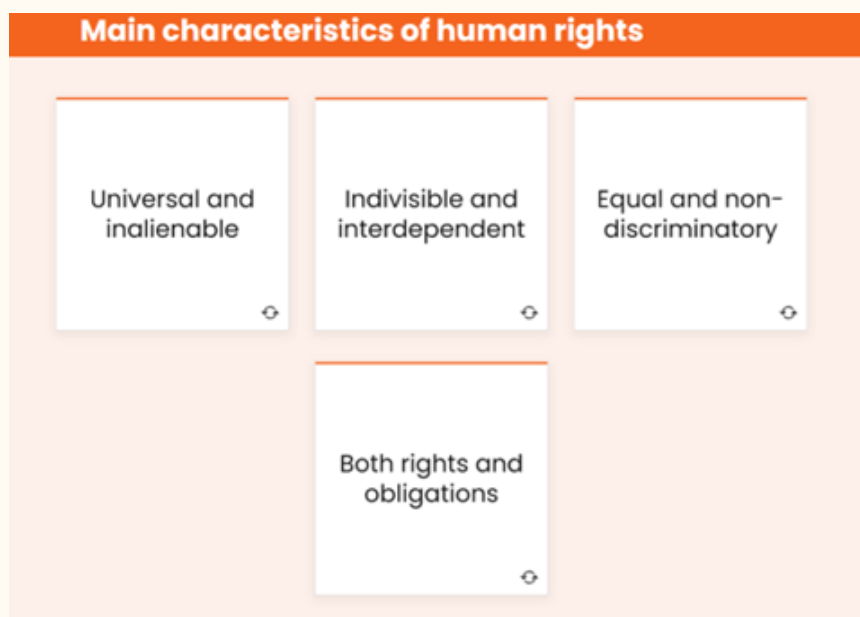


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B96mfwCg7U>

The Declaration contains 30 rights and freedoms that belong to everyone and that no one can take away from us, such as; the right to freedom from torture, the right to freedom of expression, the right to education, and the right to seek asylum, to life, to liberty, to privacy, to social security, to an adequate living, etc.

The rights that were included remain the basis of international human rights law. It has also been the basis from which many legally binding human rights treaties have developed and has become a clear reference for universal human rights standards to be promoted and protected in all countries. Even though, the United Nations does not advocate a specific model of government, it promotes democratic governance as a set of values and principles that should be followed for the greater participation, equality, security and development of all human beings. A democratic system of government necessarily ensures the fulfillment of human rights and is based on the same foundations.





WHAT IS THE WELFARE PRINCIPLE?

The principle of well-being refers to the pursuit of the general welfare of the population, ensuring decent living conditions and equitable opportunities for all citizens. It involves the provision of social services and programs that address the basic needs of the population, such as health care, education, housing, social security and other aspects that contribute to people's physical, mental and social well-being.

By allowing the expression of different opinions and perspectives, democracy fosters debate, deliberation and the search for consensus for the benefit of society as a whole. Through voting, participation in interest groups, peaceful protests and other means, citizens can influence the political agenda and ensure that public policies address their needs and priorities, their welfare.

Democracy also promotes equality and non-discrimination, values that are essential to the principle of well-being. Equality of opportunity and the protection of social and economic rights are fundamental to building a society in which all citizens have access to decent living conditions and the same opportunities for development.

Finally, both democracy and the welfare principle seek to promote social stability and cohesion in society. Democracy allows conflicts and differences of opinion to be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiation, thus avoiding social tensions and divisions. For its part, social welfare contributes to reducing inequalities and ensuring greater inclusion, which in turn strengthens stability and harmony in society.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PARTICIPATE?

PARTICIPATION is synonymous with shared growth aimed at achieving a common goal that leads citizens to become more aware of the reality around them. Participation, in fact, leads to confrontation, expressing one's opinion freely, listening to others and also being heard.

WHY?

- Participating in the life of your community allows you to grow it through your contributions.
- Participation allows you to express your ideas and share them with your peers.
- You can share ideas and proposals, turning them into initiatives that benefit others and the community in which you live.

FORMS OF PARTICIPATION:

- POLITICAL AND NON-POLITICAL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
- THE FREE OR VOLUNTARY FORMS OF ASSOCIATION
- WORKING GROUPS
- SECTORAL AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUMS
- CONDUCTING/PROPOSING
- CITIZENS' PETITIONS
- VOLUNTEERING
- EXERCISE OF VOTING RIGHTS
- STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

All these forms of participation refer to the exercise of one's right of citizenship and they can be carried out freely, without any kind of constraint. They are voluntary forms of participation because they are not subject to complex rules and are flexible and adaptable. Moreover, by involving different actors, they stimulate multi-level participation on different issues felt at a common level.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A YOUNG PERSON?

Both nationally and at the European level, there are many tools for people to participate and exercise their right to be active citizens. These are tools that, through specific programs and/or initiatives, allow you to be a key player in the decision-making process, to help influence the development of policies that support youth, but also to draft proposals and come up with ideas for meeting a felt need or community problem!

- Local Youth Councils.
- Youth participation activities.
- National Youth Councils.



EXERCISE 1: THE DEMOCRACY TREE



Instructions:

- Draw a tree on the large sheet of paper
- The branches of the tree represent the fruits of democracy: How many can you think of?
- The roots of the tree represent the "pillars" of democracy: What do we need, in a society, to have democracy?

Goal of the exercise:

- Participants gain broader understanding of democracy;
- Participants share ideas and perspectives on democracy;
- Participants exchange culture and network;

Total time:

1:20 hrs.

Material:

10 big sheets of paper (A1 size); pens, pencils, markers in different colors; post-it notes.

Instructions:

10 minutes: Show the students the picture of a tree on the projector. Tell them to think of a tree as a visual tool to summarize everything we have been discussing about during the day. In this way, they will have to think of the trunk of the tree as "Democracy itself";

- The roots of the tree will be the "foundation of democracy". In other words, they will have to answer the to the question: What do we need in a society, in order to be able to have a healthy democracy? (The fundamental pillars of democracy);
- The branches of the tree represent the fruits of democracy, or the benefits of having a democratic society. Which ones are the advantages of a democratic society? Why is it better to have democracy, rather than not having it? Which ones are the benefits for the citizens living in a democratic society?

EXERCISE 2: ELECTIONEERING



An informal moving debate is conducted, where ten different statements are discussed. After being presented with a statement, participants were encouraged to choose whether they agree or not and move to the according side. After the arguments are presented, participants have the option to change their opinion, and move to the other side.

Examples:

- We have a moral obligation to use our vote in elections.
- We should obey all laws, even unfair ones.
- The only people who have any power in a democracy are the politicians.
- "People get the leaders they deserve".
- It is the responsibility of citizens to control the day-to-day activity of the government.
- Freedom of expression means you can say that you want.
- Neo-fascist parties should be banned.
- Extremists should be banned from speaking in public.
- Voting should be an obligation.
- We aren't born with rights; We get them.

EXERCISE 3: MAKING LINKS



A simulation game in which participants are divided into four groups, representing the four actors, and their functions in a utopian democratic society: the government, the citizens, the press, and the NGOs. The activity involves negotiation and a deeper understanding of the functions of each of the four actors, and the importance of promoting civic responsibility among each actor.

1. GOVERNMENT

- Adopts legislations
- Protects the interests of the different societal groups
- Manages the economic system through fiscal and tax policies
- Ensures peace and manages the defense system
- Maintains external and internal relations

2. CITIZENS

- Active participation and participatory government
- Continues education and deliberation
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Promotion of equality
- Environmental sustainability

3. PRESS

- Spreading information
- Educating masses
- Socialization
- Entertainment
- Persuasion

4. NGOs

- Advocacy
- Service provision
- Employment
- Accountability
- Research and education

EXERCISE 4: FIGHTERS FOR RIGHTS



In this group activity, participants are divided in groups and have to research about inspiring icons fighting for human rights.

Example:

- Biography: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, born 12 November 1815, Johnstown, New York, USA
- Quote: The best protection any woman can have is courage. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equally.
- Fact: Her father wished she was born a boy. After her death women gained the right to vote.
- Legacy: Activist and leader of the suffrage movement. The first women's rights convention



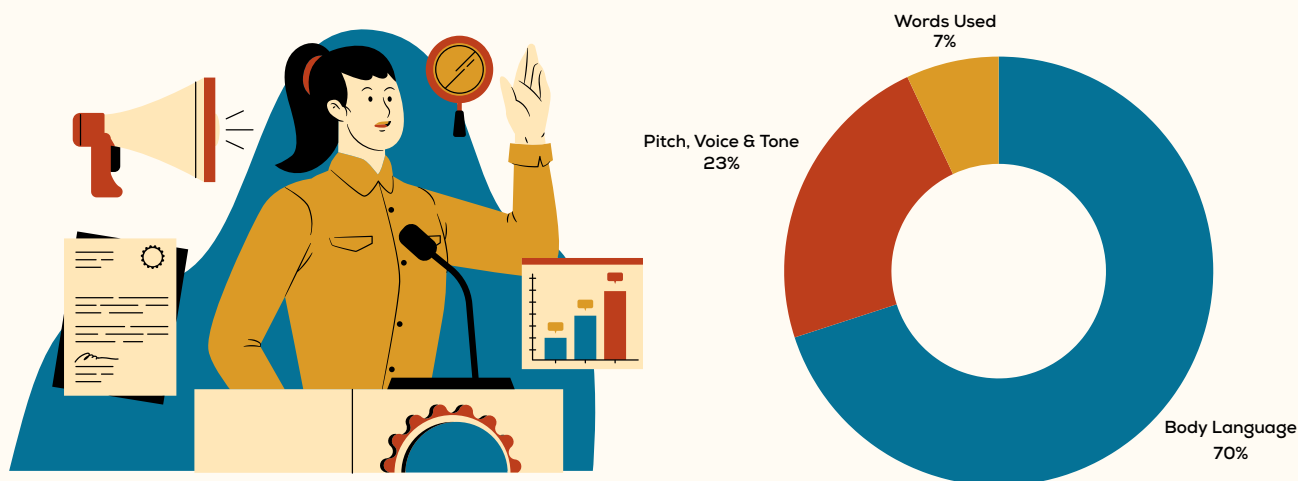
PART 02

THE STRUCTURE OF DEBATE

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

Public Speaking isn't just about what you say; it's also about how you say it!

- Public Speaking can only inform and/or influence an audience if it is delivered in a structured debate way!
- The best way to ensure that your Public Speaking activity is structured is to plan & prepare notes that can be used as a guide when speaking.
- Your notes should be headings and key words in a bullet-point format and not a word for word script of everything you want to say.



DEBATE.

A debate is a more formalized style of discussion where the goal is to use conversational skills to find arguments for or against a particular question, rather than just simply discussing a topic and/or combining multiple perspectives in a conversation. When debating, the participants learn fundamental skills like how to thoroughly research a topic, present standpoints, listen to others, and think quickly during an active conversation.

3 main components for debate according to Aristotle:

- **Logos** – correct reasoning, participants learn how to construct a strong argument
- **Pathos** – emotionally touching your audience, participants learn how to convince your audience by creating an emotional connection and speaking articulately, vividly and expressively
- **Ethos** – growing credibility, participants learn how to be credibly prepared by radiating confidence and how to establish trust



Ethos	Pathos	Logos
<i>'Ethics'</i>	<i>'Pity'</i>	<i>'Logic'</i>
Establishing personal credentials	Inspiring an emotional response	Arguing based on reason and facts
Getting your audience to trust you	Getting your audience to feel	Getting your audience to think

Source: hyperbolit

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION.

Positive Examples of Non-Verbal Communication:

- o Head looking up
- o Smiling
- o Hand gestures
- o Eye contact
- o Medium speed of speech

Social benefits of a debate:

- **Encourages Critical Thinking** – learning to analyze different viewpoints and thinking quickly; being able to question the information and finding evidence to support your information. This makes you a better thinker and problem-solver which helps to make better decisions in life.
- **Learning to listen to each other** – a way to have more constructive and inclusive conversations. By debating, you learn how to present your ideas more clearly and how to organize them so others can understand them. It is useful in everyday life, school, work, etc.
- **Building Confidence** - When you debate, you present your ideas to the audience. This gives you more self-assurance when engaging in public speaking. You discover that it's acceptable to voice your thoughts, regardless of how they differ from those of others. This self-assurance can assist you in various circumstances, such as giving presentations or talking to other people.
- **Becoming a team player** – being a part of debate you are usually with partner or group of people. Being a part of debate team you learn how to cooperate, co-create, compromise, share and support each other as a team.

Debate is not only about winning arguments but also about developing skills that will help out throughout the life.

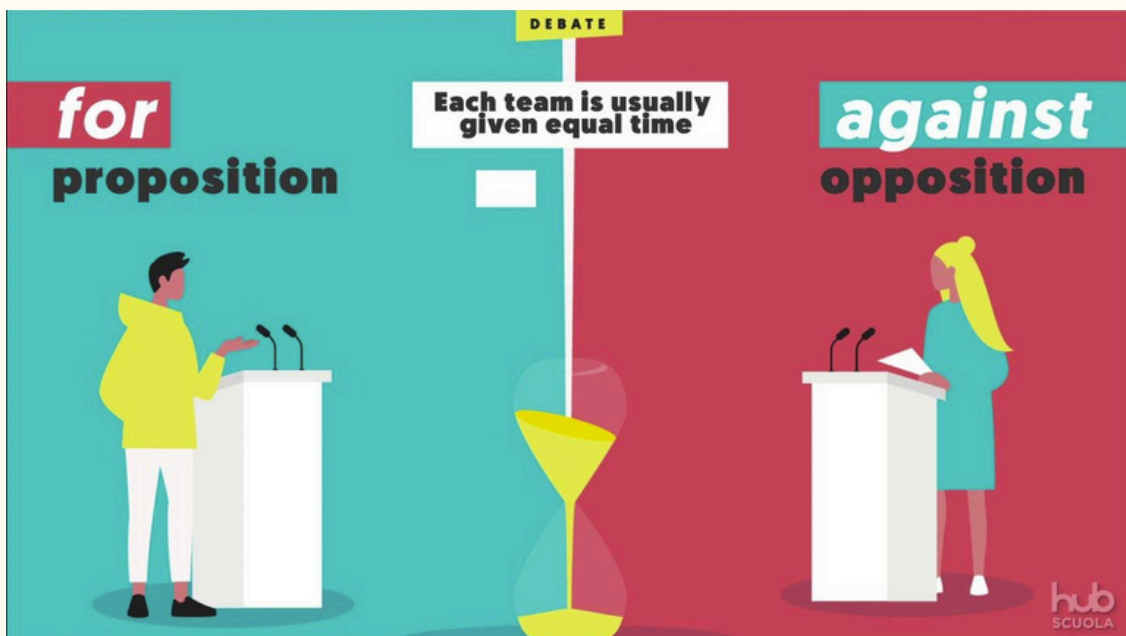




Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjdxUiAJOUQ>

FORMULATING THE DEBATE CASE.

- Use credible evidence to back up each point;
- Stay civil and calm;
- Find a good opening for the speech;
- Try to see why their solutions makes sense to them;
- Time the speech so you make sure that you don't go over;
- Your opinion is not facts;
- Mix rationality with emotions;
- Listen.

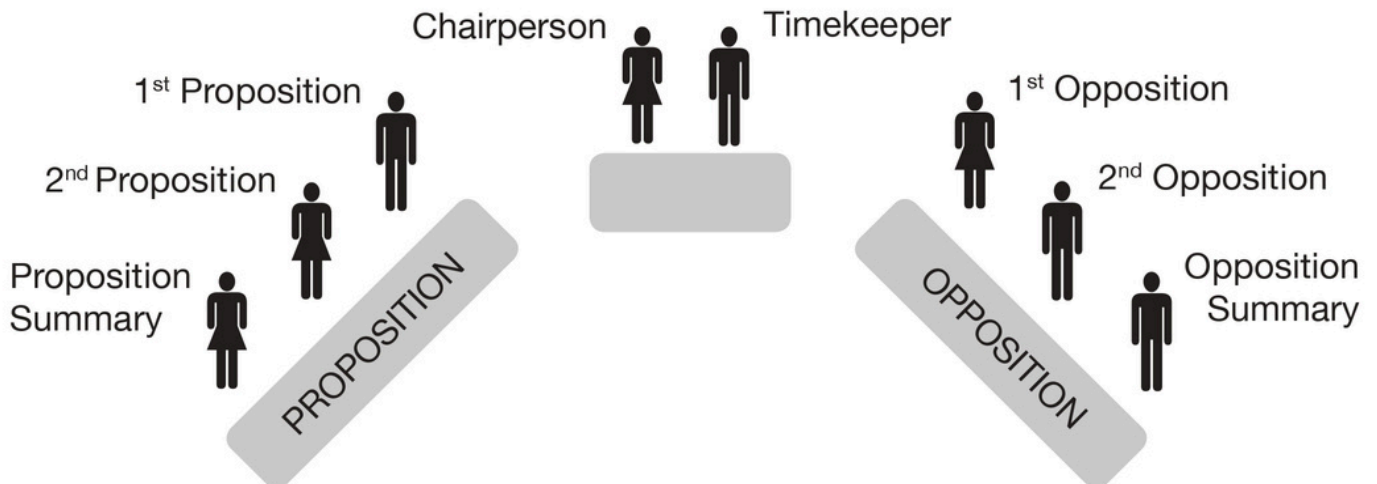


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TSkxu8on0>





What happens in a debate?



1. The Start

- » At the start, the Chairperson welcomes the audience, introduces the motion to be debated and the people who are speaking, and asks the 1st Proposition speaker to start the debate.

2. The Main Speeches

- » Each of the main speakers is introduced by the Chairperson in turn, starting with 1st Proposition speaker, then 1st Opposition, then 2nd Proposition and then 2nd Opposition.
- » Each of the speakers gives reasons to support their side of the debate, and tries to respond to the reasons the other side have given.
- » The speakers can all ask questions or make short interruptions during the other side's speeches by standing up and saying "On a Point of Information", then waiting to see whether the main speaker will allow them to interrupt.
- » Speakers are not allowed to make Points of Information in the first or last thirty seconds of the speeches. This is "protected time".
- » During the speeches, the Timekeeper times the speakers to make sure they keep to the time limits and gives signals to show when Points of Information may be offered.

3. The Floor Debate

- » After the main speeches, the audience get a chance to say what they think about the issues. They might ask questions or add new arguments or a different point of view- the Chairperson chooses people to speak.
- » The speakers do not answer the points straight away, but the summary speakers take notes on what is said so they can respond in their speeches.

4. The Summary Speeches

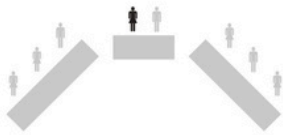
- » After the floor debate, the Chairperson introduces the two summary speakers, starting with the Opposition Summary and finishing with the Proposition Summary (note that the Proposition team always get the last word!)
- » The summary speakers answer any questions from the audience, and remind the audience of the main areas of disagreement in the debate and why the audience should agree with them.
- » There are no Points of Information allowed during summary speeches.

5. The Vote

- » At the end, the Chairperson asks the audience to vote on whether they agree with the motion or not.



Chairperson



Start by welcoming the audience and announcing the motion:

The motion is This House...

Now you might want to remind everyone of some of the rules before you start:

How today's debate will work:

- » How long will each of the speeches be?
- » How long will "protected time" be at the start and end of each speech (when Points of Information are not allowed)? What sort of signals will the timekeeper be giving?
- » How will the floor debate, summary speeches and vote be organised?

Now you introduce the six main speakers:

The speakers on the proposition will be... and the speakers on the opposition will be...

Read out the names of the speakers from your notes below.

Now the debate begins and you introduce each speaker in turn as they get up to speak:

First proposition:

Name:

Second proposition:

Name:

First opposition:

Name:

Second opposition:

Name:

The Floor Debate:

Ask people in the audience to raise their hands if they would like to make a short speech or ask a question. Select from those who have their hands raised (you might want to try to make sure you get a good balance of points that support each side). Remember the speakers in the debate don't answer the points directly - they respond in the summaries.

Proposition summary:

Name:

Opposition summary:

Name:

Now thank the speakers and hold a vote on the motion by asking people to raise hands:

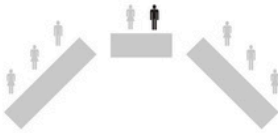
The vote:

Votes in favour:

Votes against:

Undecided/Abstentions:

Timekeeper



Make sure you have something that you can use to time, you know how you are going to make signals (with a bell, a gavel or a clap), that you and the Chairperson have noted the speakers' names and that you know how long each speech is supposed to be. Remember if anyone is still speaking 25 seconds after their time is up you should signal continuously and the Chairperson will ask them to stop speaking.

First Proposition	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.

Second Proposition	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.

First Opposition	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.

Second Opposition	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.

The Floor Debate

During the floor debate, you could use a separate sheet of paper to write down the names of the people who speak. You do not need to time them.

Proposition Summary	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

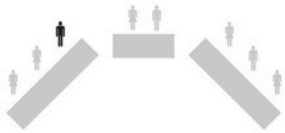
Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.

Opposition Summary	
Name:	
Time taken:	_____ : _____

Make one signal after 30 seconds, one signal 30 seconds before the end and two signals together at the end.



First Proposition



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are proposing:

Today's motion is:

Now give one short sentence about each of the main reasons to support your view:

Reasons in your speech:

1

2

3

Reasons in your partner's speech:

4

5

6

Now explain what the debate is going to be about, clarifying what is meant by the motion:

What we mean by the motion is that:

Now give each of your reasons in turn:

1

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

2

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

3

Reason:

Evidence:

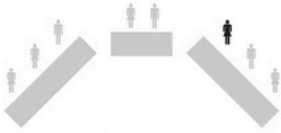
Analysis:

Link:

Now remind us of your reasons and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:

First Opposition



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are opposing:

Today's motion is:

Now give one short sentence about each of the main reasons to support your view:

Reasons in your speech:

1

2

3

Reasons in your partner's speech:

4

5

6

Now rebut the arguments made by First Proposition, showing why you disagree:

Rebuttal:

You should use the notes you have made on your rebuttal sheet during their speech. Remember that you can also do rebuttal later in your speech if it fits better there.

Now give each of your reasons in turn:

1

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

2

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

3

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

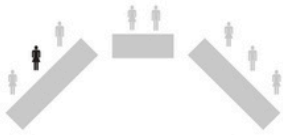
Link:

Now remind us of your reasons and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:



Second Proposition



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are proposing:

Today's motion is:

Now give one short sentence about each of the main reasons to support your view:

Reasons already given by your partner:

1

2

3

Reasons in your speech:

4

5

6

Now rebut the arguments made by First Opposition, showing why you disagree:

Rebuttal:

You should use the notes you have made on your rebuttal sheet during their speech. Remember that you can also do rebuttal later in your speech if it fits better there.

Now give each of your reasons in turn:

4

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

5

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

6

Reason:

Evidence:

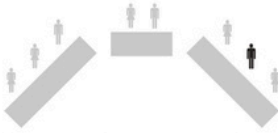
Analysis:

Link:

Now remind us of your reasons and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:

Second Opposition



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are opposing:

Today's motion is:

Now give one short sentence about each of the main reasons to support your view:

Reasons already given by your partner:

1

2

3

Reasons in your speech:

4

5

6

Now rebut the arguments made by Second Proposition, showing why you disagree:

Rebuttal:

You should use the notes you have made on your rebuttal sheet during their speech. Remember that you can also do rebuttal later in your speech if it fits better there.

Now give each of your reasons in turn:

4

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

5

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

Link:

6

Reason:

Evidence:

Analysis:

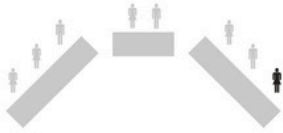
Link:

Now remind us of your reasons and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:



Opposition Summary



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are opposing:

Today's motion is:

Now try to respond to the most important floor speeches:

Write notes here during the floor speeches

Point from the floor:

Your team's response:

Now remind us of your team's main reasons for being against the motion:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Now look at the other team's reasons and tell us why your team disagrees:

Write notes here during the debate

The proposition team said that:

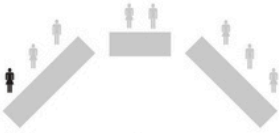
But we disagree because:

Now remind us of your point of view and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:



Proposition Summary



Start by introducing yourself and the motion you are proposing:

Today's motion is:

Now try to respond to the most important floor speeches:

Write notes here during the floor speeches

Point from the floor:

Your team's response:

Now remind us of your team's main reasons for supporting the motion:

1
2
3
4
5
6

Now look at the other team's reasons and tell us why your team disagrees:

Write notes here during the debate

The opposition team said that:

But we disagree because:

Now remind us of your point of view and try to finish with a strong statement:

In conclusion:



Rebuttal sheet



Use this sheet to take notes while the speaker before you is speaking on what their main points are. Try too note down ways your team can respond. Are the arguments relevant? Important? Logical? Has proper evidence been given? Are there other issues to consider?

They said ...

but we disagree, because ...

1

2

3



PART 03

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

VIDEOS.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-feDZRxJKw&ab_channel=HappyLearningEnglish
- <https://youtu.be/GFIVHS6W1MM>
- <https://youtu.be/nDgIVseTkuE>

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Highlights from the National Championship of Democratic Debates

Images captured during the debates held in Chisinau, Moldova in 2024.