

# What is Oxford Style Debate?

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# What is Debate?

- A communication process in which participants argue for and against a given topic
- A formal method of interactive & position representational argument

# 'Debate is discussion?'

	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific question</li><li>• Do not look for a solution</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To look for a solution</li></ul>
<b>Choice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two choices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many choices</li></ul>
<b>Speaking rules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strict rules of the order &amp; length of speaking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move freely with less formal rules</li></ul>
<b>The Purpose of communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To insist own position &amp; do not yield to the opponent</li><li>• The third party (audience/judge involvement)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To try to reach an agreement</li></ul>

# **‘Debate is that it is all about argument’ ?**

- Logical argument & Factual argument
- To develop one’s ability to play from either position with equal ease
- To improve with knowledge & skill of its participants

- A formal debating contest

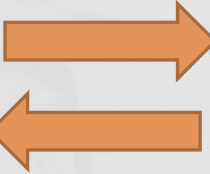
- **a rule-based** competitive debate
- to discuss & decide on differences within **a framework** defining how they will interact

- Informal debate = a common occurrence

Proposition

“for, ‘Affirmative’”

“against, ‘Negative’”



Audience  
Judges

# British Parliamentary debate

- Under rules derived from British parliamentary procedure
- The model of “debating”, focusing on rhetoric
- U.K. (The Oxford Union), Australia, India, APDA (Ivy League), etc.

- **Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs)**

Speaker of the House of Commons

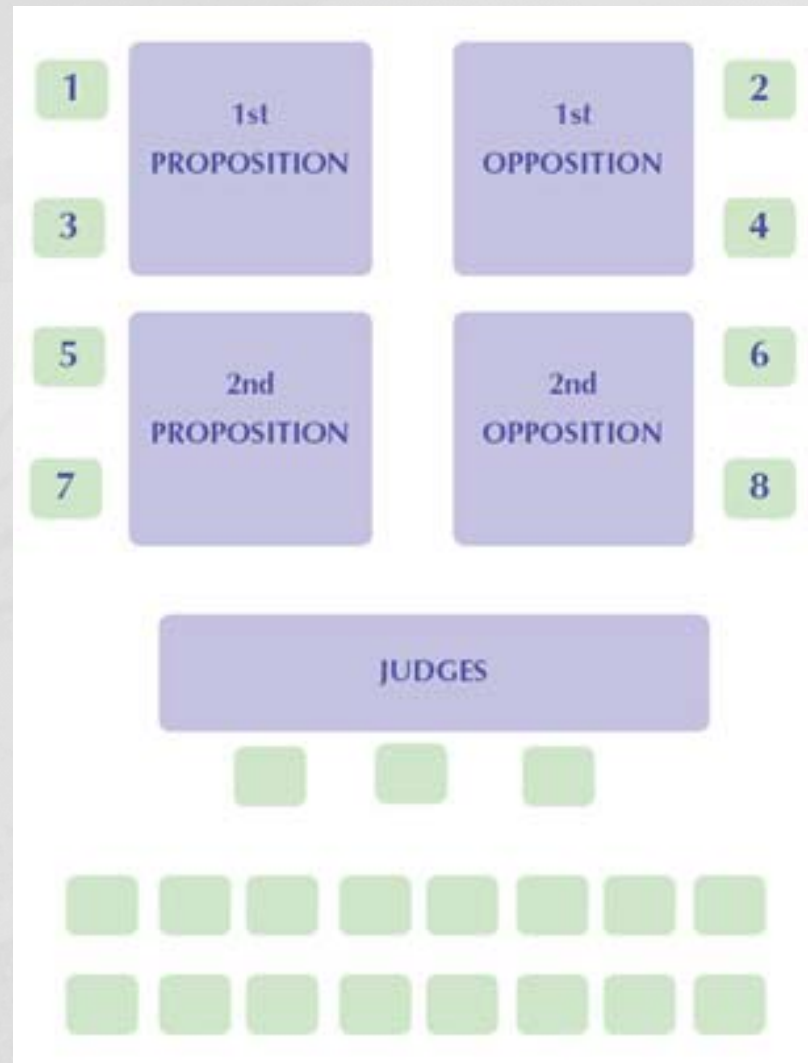
Government  
(Proposition)

Opposition

- 30 minute session on a Wednesday
- The Leader of the Opposition : six supplementary questions
- The Leader of the third largest Party : two supplementary questions



# British Parliamentary debate format



# The Oxford Union Debate

- The world's most prestigious debating society founded in 1823
- Freedom of speech
- A forum for debate & the discussion of controversial issues
  - ① Malcolm X, black empowerment (1960s)
  - ② Richard Nixon, Watergate admitted (1970s)
  - ③ Gerry Adams, IRA (1980s)
  - ④ O. J. Simpson, His criminal trial (1990s)

- Guest speakers
- less formalised
- Public speaking

**Chamber  
debating**

- The Unions best  
Debaters against other  
debating societies

**Competitive  
debating**

**Public Business  
Meeting debates**

# “This House believes~”

Speaking in  
Proposition

①

③

⑤

Speaking in  
Opposition

②

④

⑥

● No cross-examination

<Exit> : Voting  
Noes

Ayes

- We improve our decision-making.
- We sharpen our arguments.
- We enfranchise minority opinions.
- We enliven our communication.

**By Embracing Debate**

- Rigorous self-examination
- Tolerance for divergent points of view
- Embodies the ideals of reasoned arguments
- Effective communication
- Independent research
- Efficient teamwork

**With its emphasis on critical thinking**