Have you got the latest version of this lesson?

Check MyMastery to make sure. You can also download more great resources for this unit!

Take me back to MyMastery!

MyMastery

Big Question: How do I take part in a formal debate?

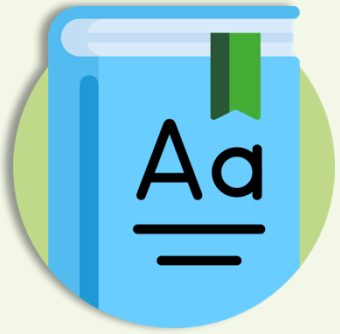
English **Mastery**

In this lesson students will be mastering the following:

Mastery content:

- The basics of formal debate: motion, proposition, opposition
- Understanding ethos, logos, pathos
- What makes a good motion for a debate

Key Words:



argument

motion

proposition

debate

parliamentary

opposition

Mastery Content

This **'How to Debate' mini unit** can be used before or after the unit assessment to develop knowledge of formal debating and Spoken Language skills as well as consolidating knowledge of the text.

The **motions** will be focused on student opinions about, and evidence from, 'Oliver Twist.'

Lessons may need **adapting** according to class, context, timetabling and lesson length.

How to Debate: Lesson 1	
Big Question: *How do I take part in a formal debate?*	
Do Now - what makes a good speaker?	5 mins
Share definitions of debate & argument **Turn and talk:** What is the difference between a debate and an argument?	5 - 10 mins
Introduce and model ethos, logos, pathos. **Quick knowledge check and model.**	10 mins
Persuasive talk task using ethos, logos, pathos **Peer assess use of ethos, logos, pathos**	10 – 15 mins
Intro rules of debate (a) motion (b) proposition and opposition	5 mins
Write a **motion** based on 'Oliver Twist' and share **Peer review the motions – what makes a good motion?**	10 – 15 mins
Exit ticket: What is a motion?	2 mins

Lesson Plan

How to debate



Do Now - 'A good speaker …'
Tick the statements which describe a good speaker.

1. Makes up facts to win the argument.

2. Uses a logical argument built on facts.

3. Looks out to see the audience.

4. Looks down to respect the audience.

5. Varies the volume and tone of voice

6. Talks more loudly than everyone else.

7. Interrupts the other speaker when they have a better point to make.

8. Waits their turn to make a point.

9. Speaks clearly but using a range of vocabulary to express what they mean.

10. Uses very basic language so everyone can understand.

Do Now

Do Now - A good speaker …



1. Makes up facts to win the argument

2. Uses a logical argument built on facts

3. Looks out to see the audience

4. Looks down to respect the audience

5. Varies the volume and tone of voice

6. Talks more loudly than everyone else.

7. Interruptsthe other speaker when they have a better point to make.

8. Waits for their turn to make a point.

9. Speaks clearly but using a range of vocabulary to express what they mean.

10. Uses very basic language so everyone can understand.

Good speakers:

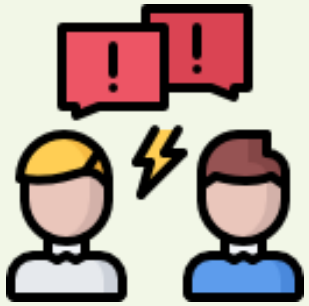
1. Use a logical argument built on facts
2. Look out at the audience
3. Vary their volume and tone of voice
4. Wait for their turn to speak.
5. Speak clearly, using good vocabulary.

Do Now

What is a debate?



Debate - a public, formal discussion in which **opposing arguments** are put forward and which usually ends with a vote.



Argument – an exchange of views, sometimes heated **OR** a set of reasons put forward to support an opinion.

Is a debate the same as an argument?

Do Now

Debate - a public, formal discussion in which **opposing arguments** are put forward and which usually ends with a vote.

Argument – an exchange of views, sometimes heated **OR** a set of reasons put forward to support an opinion.

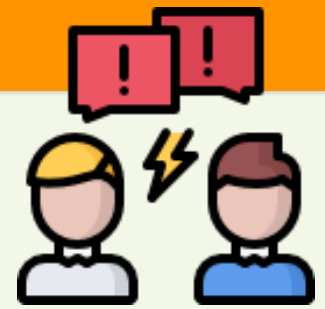
The students prepared for the upcoming **debate**.

Politicians engage in rigorous **debate** in parliament.



They were once best friends, but they had a big **argument** about money.

I must admit you make a strong **argument** for why we should not eat meat.



Check

Turn and talk:

What is the difference between a debate and an argument?



In an argument, speakers might …

In a debate, speakers tend to …

Whereas in an argument, ….. in a debate, …

The main difference between a debate and an argument is…

Check



Aristotle, an ancient Greek philosopher, suggested a **'triad'** or **three modes** of **persuasion** for speakers to convince their audience:

ethos, logos and pathos.





Ethos establishes the **credibility and ethical character** of the speaker. You will need to convince the audience of your authority, expertise, and trustworthiness on the subject.



Pathos appeals to the audience's **emotions**. You will need to create a **connection** with your audience and make them **feel** something about the subject.



Logos appeals to the logical **reasoning** of the audience. You will need to present **facts, evidence, and logical arguments** to convince your audience.

Develop

Which of these statements creates pathos?

a) The vet's bill is £300 but I only have £200. I lent you money recently for that school trip so it would be great if you could lend me some this time.

b) My puppy is very sick – I don't know if he will survive… but I can't afford the vet's bill.

c) As a vet, I would say you are being overcharged for your puppy's treatment.

Corrections



a) This is **logical** reasoning used to persuade **(logos).**



b) This pulls at the heart strings to create **pathos.**



c) This establishes the **ethos**, or credibility, of the speaker



Check

How to use ethos, pathos and logos in a short speech

What does each part of the speech suggest?



Ethos

As I stand before you today, I humbly ask for just a moment of your time. I am no stranger seeking a handout, but a member of this class, school and community, facing a temporary setback.

You know me! You can trust me.



Pathos

Imagine if the roles were reversed, and it was you who needed a helping hand. Wouldn't you hope for compassion and generosity from those around you?

I know you are a very kind and compassionate person!



Logos

Lending me the ten pounds I ask for is a small gesture with great impact. Your ten pounds can bridge the gap between where I stand now and where I strive to be.

Your generosity today not only helps me but strengthens the bonds that unite us all, now and in the future.

It's not much to you but £10 could make a big difference. Not lending it could undermine our friendship.

Develop

Talk task: Let's try using ethos, pathos and logos



Ethos



Pathos



Logos

Persuade your partner:

- To lend you £10
- To make your favourite dinner for you
- To buy you a new item that you really want

Remember you must:

- Have credibility and be trustworthy (**ethos**)
- Appeal to their emotions (**pathos**)
- Use a logical argument (**logos**)

Develop

Peer review: how persuasive are you?

Mastery Check 1

Ethos
Did they sound credible / trustworthy?

Mastery Check 2

Pathos
Did they appeal to your emotions?

Mastery Check 3

Logos
Did they use a logical argument?

I didn't believe your reasons for needing to borrow the £10 because …



You really pulled at the heart strings when you said … !

Review

What are the rules for a formal debate?



Every **parliamentary debate** has a **motion** (issue for discussion), e.g., *"This house believes that the death penalty should be reintroduced in the UK."*



The **'house'** in the debate generally refers to the government of the country in which the debate is taking place.



Parliament is the group of people who make laws for a country.

Parliament has approved the policy, but it has not yet become law.

The **government** is the group of people who govern (rule) a country. *The government*

Parliamentary describes things to do with a **parliament**.

*He used his influence to make sure she was not selected as a **parliamentary** candidate.*

Develop

What are the rules for a formal debate?



Every debate has two sides.

One side **proposes the motion**: they are **for** the motion; they **agree** the death penalty should be reintroduced in the UK. They are the **proposition.**

Proposition Speaker





Opposition Speaker

The other side **opposes the motion**: they are **against** the motion; they **disagree** with bringing back the death penalty. They are the **opposition.**

Develop

Write, pair, share:
Give three ideas for a **motion** about a character in 'Oliver Twist'.







Example of a motion:

"*This house believes* that Dodger should not have been punished for his crimes."



Not examples of a motion:

- Do you think Dodger should have been punished for his crimes?
- I think Dodger should have been punished for his crimes.
- Why was Dodger punished for his crimes?

Develop

Peer review suggested motions

Mastery Check 1

Is the motion presented in the correct form: ***'This house believes'?***

Mastery Check 2

Is the motion **balanced:** are there arguments for both sides?

Mastery Check 3

Is the motion **interesting enough:** Is it possible to develop more than one idea?

You forgot to say 'This house believes…' for your motion.



I don't think there is enough to say about Rose Maylie to make for an interesting, balanced debate.

Share ideas:



Example of a motion:

"This house believes that Dodger should not have been punished for his crimes."

Your ideas …

Next time, we will plan our arguments for the debate and learn more about how a formal debate is run.

Motion This house believes …
Dodger is a more likeable character than Oliver.

Develop

Mastery Check 1

Is the motion presented in the correct form:
'This house believes'?

Mastery Check 2

Is the motion **balanced:** are there arguments for both sides?

Mastery Check 3

Is the motion **interesting enough:** Is it possible to develop more than one idea?

Motion This house believes …
Fagin is more evil than Sikes.
Dodger is a more likeable character than Oliver.
Nancy should have prioritised her own safety over Oliver's.
The plot of Oliver Twist is not realistic or believable.
Fagin is a product of his environment rather than inherently evil.
The themes and ideas in 'Oliver Twist' are still relevant to today's readers.
The Bumbles should be punished for their neglect of Oliver

We will keep this list as we will be debating different motions later in the Debate unit.



What is the **motion** in a debate?

A

The first speaker

B

The topic you are debating

C

When the speaker stands up

D

Your main argument

Check

Love this lesson?

Have suggestions for improvements?

Does something need fixing?

English Mastery

Please let us know!

Fill in this feedback form so that we can keep improving.

Feedback