



# Phrases useful for debating

Function	Phrases
Opening the debate	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this debate.</p> <p>The motion for the debate today is: ...</p> <p>Let us first define some important terms in this debate.</p> <p>People / Dr. Smith... believe(s) / feel(s) / insist(s) / think(s)...that...</p> <p>Let's first define some important concepts...</p>
Presenting arguments	<p>The most important argument for ... is ...</p> <p>The main idea/thing is ...</p> <p>Most importantly, I want to mention that...</p> <p>Two/three... important arguments support my point of view...</p> <p>This argument/idea is of paramount importance.</p> <p>In fact, you can find many examples for this in real life. Just think of...</p> <p>And there are similar cases, such as..., ...</p> <p>So in this simple example we can clearly see the effect of ...</p> <p>It is vital to realise that...</p> <p>The crucial point is that...</p> <p>It is clearly the case that</p>
Referring to research/statistics	<p>In support of this, I could point to...</p> <p>In a recent study, researchers found that...</p> <p>According to... it has been found that ...</p> <p>There is some evidence that...</p>
Giving examples to back up your argument	<p>It is easy to think of many instances of this in daily life. For instance,.../ For example,...</p> <p>There have been several cases where this has happened.</p>
Conceding an argument	<p>It's true/obvious/evident that ... However, ...</p> <p>While you might say that ..., it's important to remember that ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>I agree with you that ... On the other hand, ...</p> <p>Although/even though it is true that... I believe that...</p> <p>I agree/admit/concede that... , but we must remember that...</p> <p>I can understand that... Nevertheless, ...</p>
Sequencing a list of arguments	<p>First of all, I'd like to state ...</p> <p>Firstly, ... Secondly, ...Thirdly, ...</p> <p>The second argument in favor of ...</p>

	To begin with, ... I'd start by...
Strengthening your point	In addition to that,... You also have to consider... Furthermore,... Moreover,... What's more,... Perhaps / maybe I should also mention... Not to mention the fact that... Not only that but also...
Challenging your opponent	Wouldn't you have to agree ...? Doesn't what you're saying contradict with ...? What about the ...? How would you explain, that ... ?
Concluding	As a final word, let me summarize my/our point of view ... My final thought is ... It all boils down to ... In a nutshell, what I am trying to say is ... To sum up, ... In conclusion, ... Finally, ... So, as we have seen ... therefore we must conclude that... This clearly reinforces everything I/we have said up until this point. In light of what was said earlier, we can see that...

