

## Hints

1. Remember that at least 25% of debating success and failure is due to luck — both good and bad.
2. Maintain a sense of humour. Winning is not worth it if the cost is trampled human relationships. Let's win modestly and lose philosophically. Something only becomes unfair if we stoop to complain.
3. In preparing for your debate,
  - a) Share your source material and library books;
  - b) Be honest in your use of sources and quotations;
  - c) Learn the rules of debate — in order to eliminate misunderstandings and make you a better debater.
4. Once the debate has started,
  - a) Begin by introducing yourself to your opponents;
  - b) Be courteous at all times;
  - c) Attack the arguments, not the debaters. Not , “Our opponents must be pretty stupid if they expect anyone to be convinced by their contentions” but instead, “Our opponents’ contentions contain such serious flaws that their case must fall.”
  - d) Never engage in what the military calls “dumb insolence”—— sneers, winks, exaggerated mime of amazement or disbelief, laughing, superior smiles. Never belittle your opponent.
5. Be firm in your arguments, but be prepared to be flexible in your approach to deal with what your opponents argue.
6. Retain a sense of humour, but remember that your purpose is to win the debate, not entertain the House.
7. Do not become angry, but don't be afraid to stand up and face your opponents vigourously and forcefully. Maintain your self control.
8. Take advantage of heckling opportunities.
9. Stay with your arguments, and don't allow yourself to be confused by heckling.
10. Take notes during both opponents' speeches to assist your team mate and develop your note taking skills.