

# Structure of a Speech

Ideally you should try to have a structure to your speech. If you do then it is more likely to be a good speech. If you don't have some form or structure you may be penalised by adjudicators and you may ramble. You don't have to use a strict structure - just have a mental layout of what you want to say and when. In fact if you have too rigid a structure then you will find it impossible to stick to it, when you have to rebutt and deal with points of information. The following is a rough outline. Ideally, develop a style and structure you feel comfortable with.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Minute (0:00-1:00)**

Points of Information are out of order.

Win the audience, perhaps with a joke.

Don't rebutt another speakers speech.

Define your speech, i.e. say what you will address and how.

Ideally state your argument in a single, short sentence.

Define your team approach, i.e. outline what your partner will say (or has said).

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Minute (1:00-2:00)**

Don't accept P.O.I. until foundation has been laid (your speech has developed a bit).

Layout your argument.

Usually best to propose/oppose on 3 points. (e.g. Political, Economic, Social).

Begin your first point.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Minute (2:00-6:00)**

Say outline political aspects and deal with them. Then take a P.O.I. on that.

Do the same for the other aspects (i.e. Economics & Social).

Accept 2 to 3 points of information.

Use these four minutes to make all your points. Effectively this is your speech.

Refer back to the single, short, core sentence one or two times.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Minute (6:00-7:00)**

Once the sixth minute bell has gone you can't be offered any points of information.

Finish the point you were on as quickly as possible.

Don't introduce any new points or arguments.

Sum up. Reiterate your main points (and your partner's if you are the 2nd speaker).

Ideally, if possible, restate the single, core sentence as the last thing you say.

## **7:00 min**

Stay on your feet until you hear the bell.

Finish, immediately if possible, "Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to propose/oppose".

Be back in your seat by 7:15, if possible, and no later than 7:30.

## **8:00 min**

You are dead. Sit down before you make a complete fool of yourself.