

Some Useful Phrases for Debating

Introduction

- Thank you for being here with us today.
- Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure/ honor to welcome you...
- We would like to persuade you that...
- What we want to achieve in the future is...

Claiming arguments and asserting points

- We define... as...
- Let me start with the argument/point about...
- The first thing we have to consider/ understand...
- One of the arguments in favor of/ against the resolution... is that...
- The affirmatives/ negatives are mistaken in saying that...
- As our 1st/2nd /3rd speaker explained in his/her speech,...
- On the very point about...
- I would like to add...
- The negatives/affirmatives are contradicting themselves by firstly claiming that... and secondly agreeing with us during the X-Q that...
- The argument consists of three main issues: ...
- Even if we agreed with the affirmatives/negatives. that... , there is still a problem of...
- The affirmatives/negatives may be right that ... but their claims about... are based on false evidence.
- I (dis)agree with X when he says that...
- There is no doubt that...
- I am convinced that...
- It is quite clear to me that...
- Anybody can see that...
- You can't deny that...
- There is little doubt that...
- In my opinion...
- I'd like to support the points brought by X.
- I am in complete (dis)agreement with X.
- The example about... is irrelevant because...

Asking questions

- Could you specify what you mean by... ?
- Could you please define... for me?
- If it is not a personal question...
- Could you repeat/explain/ give reasoning for ...
- Could you please quote your source?
- Begging your pardon, did you really mean that...
- Isn't this in contradiction to... ?
- Could you stick to the point/subject, please?
- Are you overlooking the fact that... ?
- If you could say a word about...

Answering

- You seem to be forgetting...
- That's absurd/ridiculous
- That's beside the point.
- It depends on what you mean/understand by...
- That's really interesting but I don't think it's really to the point.

Summing up

- In conclusion, ...
- The resolution/motion must fall/stand.
- To summarize what I've just said...
- There were three important clashes in the debate: ...