

3. Written and Verbal Debates

1 Explain to your students:

- When we think about debates, we usually think about people making speeches, for example, in debating competitions or in Parliamentary debates. These are examples of verbal debates.
- Debates don't always have to be verbal. Sometimes debates take place in a written format, for example, in academic essays, in newspaper columns or letters pages and even on social media. In the past, debates also took place in pamphlet exchanges.
- Speeches are often written down before they are delivered verbally.

2 Show your students clips of two or three young people making speeches in a debate in the UK Youth Parliament. For example, you may wish to choose [this debate on free school meals](#).

3 Ask your students to pick out things they notice about both the content and the delivery of the speech. You could provide them with the Debate Speech Review sheet to record their ideas, then discuss them as a class.

4 Have your students work in pairs to decide on three tips they would give to people who were delivering a speech as part of a formal debate. Ask each pair to feed back to the class and collate their ideas. Finish by seeing if the class can collectively agree on the three most important things to remember when preparing for a debate.

Debate Speech Review

Considering both the content and delivery of the debate speech you have watched, write down anything you noticed about these aspects of the speech.

Preparedness	
Body language	
Voice	
Notes	
Facts and figures	
Examples	
Persuasive language	
Other	

