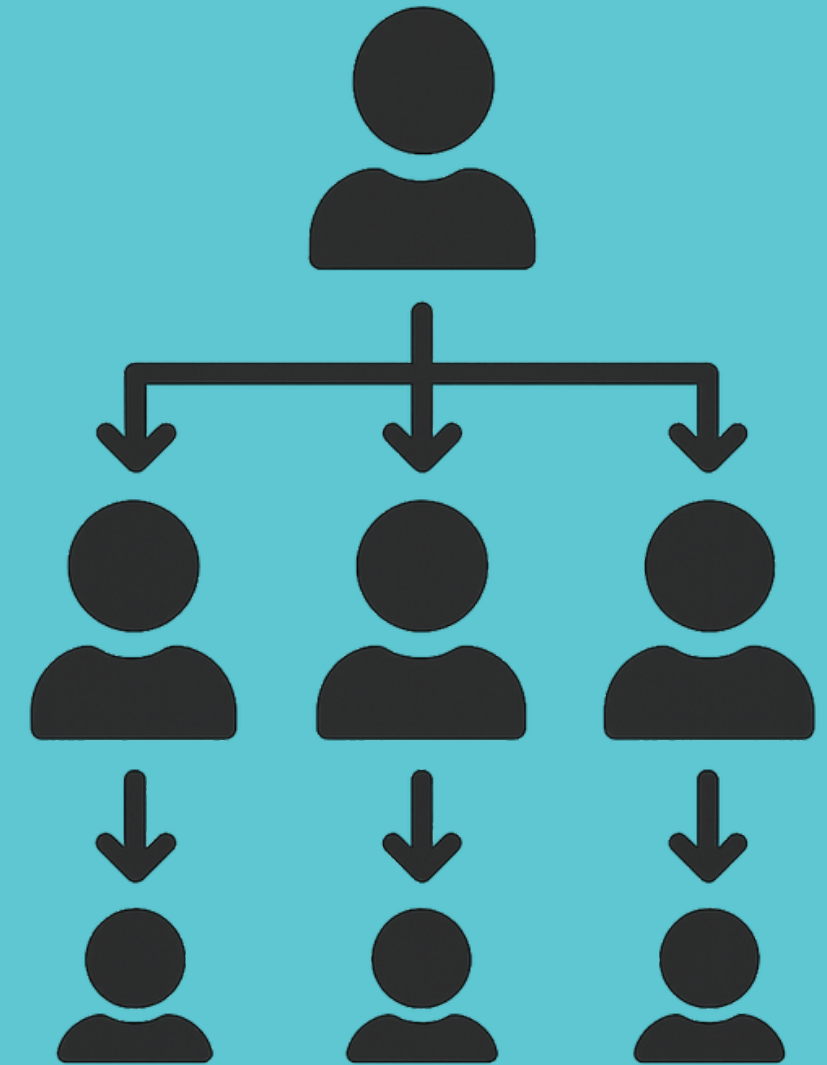




Session 2

Organisation and prioritisation



Warm Up

Balloon Debate

Choose one:

- A doctor
- A artist
- A teacher
- An engineer
- A farmer

Try using:

- I think ____ should stay because...
- This matters because...
- They are more important than ____ because...



- In this activity, you were:
- Choosing between ideas
 - Deciding what matters most
 - Explaining your reasoning
 - Prioritising your strongest point

That is exactly what good debaters do when they prepare a motion.



Before you argue, ask:

- What is the motion really asking?
- What do the key words mean?
- Who is affected?
- What would change in real life?



Unpacking a Motion

Before you argue, ask:

- What is the motion really asking?
- What do the key words mean?
- Who is affected?
- What would change in real life?

Example motions:

“This House would ban mobile phones during the school day.”

Follow up questions to ask:

Does this mean in lessons only, or all day?

What about break and lunch?

Why might schools want this?

Who would agree? Who would disagree?



Introduction

Brainstorming

At the start, write down all possible ideas.
Do not judge them too early.

Then pick your best 3 points. Choose points
that are:

- Clear
- Different from each other
- Easy to explain
- Important to the debate

Avoid:

- Repeating the same idea
- Weak or unclear points
- Too many arguments

Activity

Brainstorming

This House
would ban
mobile phones
during the
school day

This House would
make school
meals free for all
students

This House
believes school
uniforms should
be compulsory.

What will Proposition and Opposition disagree about most?

Headlining your arguments

A headline is a short, clear version of your main point. For example:

Too Long:

“People would probably feel happier and less stressed if they did not have to go back to school or work on a Monday.”

Better headline:

Say: Banning Mondays would improve well-being.

If your point is clear on its own, it is easier to explain and defend.

A clear 3-point structure

Using the 3 points your group has chosen, write them as headlines

Extension:

Take one of your points and turn it into a PEEL paragraph

e.g. Free school meals would make school fairer because...

Signposting your arguments

During your speech, you want to make transitions between points clear.

It helps you tell the audience and judges where you are going.

Useful phrases include:

- My first point is...
- My second point is...
- Finally...
- Turning to my next point...
- In summary...

Skill drill: The Condensing Machine

Take one of your arguments and explain it:

- In 45 seconds
- Then in 20 seconds

You will say it to someone not in your group.



Even when you shorten it,
keep:

- Your main point
- One reason why it matters
- A clear final sentence

Helpful frame:

My point is...

This matters because...

So we should / should not...



Complete one sentence:

- A good headline sounds...
- Signposting helps because...
- My strongest point today was...
- One thing I need to improve is...