



Debating team training

March - May 2019

At 5:00 pm, Room Polifunzionale 2C,
Central University Library - BUC
via Adalberto Libera 3, Trento

After the first cycle of meetings of Seminario permanente sul dibattito, held in the first semester of 2018/2019 and aimed at building a group of people interested in debates and argumentation, in the second semester the group will be addressed with a specific coaching program to exercise the format of debate used in international championships: the ultimate goal of the training is indeed to form a team for participating in international championships of debate in ESL (English second language).

Therefore meetings will be held in English, even if no specific level of English is required.

13th March

General introduction

The first meeting will clarify the peculiar features of British Parliamentary (BP) style of debating, the format used in the EUDC - European University Debating Championship. In particular, the meeting will focus on: types of motions normally used in BP challenges; roles of each speaker in the debate and team work; points of information.

20th March

Rhetorical skills: style and delivery

The meeting will address some basic issues related to performance of speeches, that is formal aspects concerning the effectiveness of verbal communication such as: gestures; eye contact; movement.

3rd April

Take a minute

BP debates require high rapidity of thoughts, since each speaker needs to quickly take a position on the opponent's arguments. In order to do so, it is necessary to improve the ability to quickly take notes on the opponent's assertions in order to identify strongest and weakest points in his argumentation.

17th April

Speech structure

The core of every debating challenge is of course the content of each speaker's discourse. One of the key features of speeches in BP debates is indeed the balance between argumentation (putting forward arguments supporting one's thesis) and counter-argumentation (to take a stand against the opponent's arguments). In the meeting some advice will be given on the ideal structure of speeches and exercises will be done on the conscious use of the time of the speech.

8th May

Impromptu debates

In international debating championships such as EUDC, teams normally face impromptu debates, that is debates on topics which are disclosed only just before the match. These debates are obviously problematic for several reasons: they require the ability to improvise and to develop arguments on topics which are not known by participants. On the other hand, practising impromptu debates strengthens the basic skills required in competitive debates.

15th May

Points of information

One distinctive characteristic of BP debates is the possibility to require points of information during the opponent's speech, that is to pose specific questions on the opponent's statements. In this meeting we will focus on how speakers in competitive debates pose and deal with points of information.

Entrance is free but seats are limited. Please book your seat in advance by sending an email to: nsf@unitn.it

Coordination

Alvise Schiavon, University of Trento

Paolo Sommaggio, University of Trento

Trainer

Austeja Kazemkaityte

For information

nsf@unitn.it

www.unitn.it/debating-team-training