

My Debate Helper

Metacognitive skill targeted: Planning, self-monitoring, and evaluating arguments and reasoning.

When to use it

You can use this tool before and after a group debate or discussion to help you plan what you'll say, pay attention to how it's going, and think about what you learned.

What you'll do

This tool helps you get ready for a debate, notice your ideas and feelings while you speak, and reflect on what went well and what you might do differently next time.

What You Need

- This sheet (printed or on a tablet/computer)
- A pen or pencil
- The debate or discussion topic

How to use it

Before the discussion: Write down your best ideas and what you want to say.

During the discussion: Jot down quick notes if you notice something important or if you change your mind about something.

After the discussion: Think about what you did well, what was difficult, and one thing you want to try next time.

About this Template

In the **'My Ideas' box**, write your main points for the discussion.

In the **'What I Noticed' box**, add quick thoughts about how things went while you were talking or listening.

In the **'Looking Back'** box, write down if you were able to follow the debate well or to share your ideas, what was tricky, and one idea for next time.

Tips for Reuse / Continuation

- Ask a friend what they wrote and share ideas about how to improve.
- Next time, see if you can try a new way of explaining your thoughts.

My Debate Helper

My Ideas

- **Main Topic:**

- What is the main thing you want to talk about or learn?

- Key Points:

- **Point 1:**

- What's the first important thing you want to say?

- **Point 2:**

- What's another important thing you want to talk about?

- **Explain**

- Can you think of any examples or stories to help explain your points

- **Goal:**

- What do you want to understand or have explained by the end of your talk

What I Noticed

- **During the Discussion:**

- Were people interested?
- Was everyone listening and joining in? Did anything fun or surprising happen?

- **Write what you noticed:**

- Did you listen carefully?
- Did you hear other people's ideas? Did you wait for your turn to speak?

- **Write what you think:**

- How did people react to you?
- Did anyone ask you questions or agree with you? Were there any surprises?

- **Write your thoughts:**

- How did the group work together?
- Was the talk friendly, serious, funny, or something else?
- Write about it here:

Looking Back

- **What Went Well:**

- Good Ideas:

- What ideas did other people like?

- **Working Together:**

- Did you work well with others or have a good chat?

- **Tricky Moments:**

- Was there anything confusing or a time when people didn't agree?

- **What Could Be Better:**

- What would you like to do better next time?

- **Ideas for Next Time:**

- One New Thing to Try:

- Think of one thing you could do next time, like asking more questions or listening carefully.
