Dos and Don'ts Checklist for Debating

**Dos:**

- Say “Good evening Mr/Madam Chairman” at the beginning of your speech.
- Stand in front of the Chairman and Timekeeper when you speak.
- Sit well, avoiding slouching. Let your body language show alert focus, intelligent and respectful interest and awareness.
- Wait for the Chairman to introduce you before getting up to speak.
- Applaud each speaker.
- Use cue cards and handle them with confidence. Make sure they are organised, easy to read and numbered.
- Remain quiet while other debaters are presenting their speeches and the Adjudicator is writing.
- Wear school uniform or neat casual clothes to the debate.
- Shake the hands of your opposition after the debate.
- Ensure that your first and last name is written on the Official Score Sheet and Chairman’s Sheet.
- Arrive ten minutes prior to the commencement of the debate.
- Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Have fun.

**Don'ts:**

- Address the Chairman as “Chairperson”.
- Address the adjudicator. The adjudicator is a member of the audience.
- Use a team line in your speech.
- Use sheets of paper for your notes.
- Use mannerisms that will be distracting to the audience.
- Interrupt other speakers while they speak unless the rules of the debate allow this.
- Converse with the audience or ask the audience’s opinions during your speech.
- Use personal attacks towards the opposition in your speech.
- Shout.
- Include false evidence or facts in your speech.
- Use inappropriate language.