

Chairperson's Sample Speech



The proposition school must provide a chairperson for every debate. For face-to-face debates, this is generally the host school. The role is traditionally filled by a student of the proposition school but a teacher can substitute if needs be.

The chairperson's role is to introduce the teams and maintain order during the debate. They open the debate by welcoming participants and inviting the captain of the proposition to speak. They also close the debate by thanking participants on behalf of Concern. During online debates, they liaise with the timekeeper to announce any time penalties incurred during the debate.

Here are sample opening and closing speeches for the chairperson;

For online debates



Sample opening speech for online debates

"Welcome everyone to today's debate between (*insert name of proposition school*) _____ and (*insert name of opposition school name*) _____. My name is _____ and I am your chairperson for today's debate.

Since the Concern Worldwide Debates Programme began in 1984 over 50,000 students have wrestled with issues ranging from Sustainable Development and Climate Change, to Terrorism, extreme poverty and the scourge of HIV and AIDS. We hope that by your participation in the debates, that you as audience members and debaters will become active citizens and agents of change, seeking justice and human rights for all. Concern Worldwide would like to thank the adjudicators, teachers and teams for making this debate possible.

The motion before the house this evening is: _____. Today, (*insert name of proposition school*) _____ will be proposing the motion whilst (*insert name of opposition school name*) _____ will be opposing the motion.

Each participant speaks for 4 minutes and 30 seconds. Each team's timekeeper bell is sounded at 3 minutes, and again at 4 minutes 15 seconds, at which time the speaker has 15 seconds to finish up. Anyone speaking for longer than 4 minutes and 30 seconds will incur a time penalty.

Heckling and sarcastic remarks are out of place and will be penalised by the adjudicators. Personalized, individual remarks are not tolerated and both teams are asked to refrain from using offensive language when challenging an argument. Offensive or hurtful speech is not tolerated by the Concern Debates programme and goes against the ethos of the competition.

I will now call on the Captain of the proposition _____ to open this evening's debate."



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CHAIRPERSON'S SAMPLE SPEECH

During the debate between each speech:

"I will now call on the Captain of the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the second speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the second speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the third speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the third speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the fourth speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the fourth speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the Captain for the opposition _____ to sum up."

"I will now call on the Captain for the proposition _____ to sum up."

Sample closing speech for online debates:

"I would like to thank both teams for their participation here today. The time penalties for the debate are as follows; the proposition school incurred ____ time penalties and the opposition school incurred ____ time penalties. We ask that the proposition teacher upload the debate to the online Concern Debates platform. A Concern Debates Adjudicator will mark the debate retrospectively. Results and feedback will be provided by the Concern Debates team to both schools. Thank you."



CHAIRPERSON'S SAMPLE SPEECH

For face-to-face debates



Sample opening speech for face-to-face debates:

“Welcome to today’s debate between *(insert name of proposition school)* and *(insert name of opposition school name)*. My name is _____ and I am your chairperson for today’s debate.

Since the Concern Worldwide Debates Programme began in 1984 over 50,000 students have wrestled with issues ranging from Sustainable Development and Climate Change, to Terrorism, extreme poverty and the scourge of HIV and AIDS. We hope that by your participation in the debates, that you as audience members and debaters will become active citizens and agents of change, seeking justice and human rights for all. Concern Worldwide would like to thank the adjudicators, teachers and teams for making this debate possible.

The motion before the house this evening is: _____.

Today, *(insert name of proposition school)* _____ will be proposing the motion whilst *(insert name of opposition school name)* _____ will be opposing the motion.

Representing the proposition, *(insert name of proposition school)* _____ are teammates *(list of student names from proposition)* _____.

Representing the opposition, *(insert name of opposition school)* _____ are teammates *(list of student names from opposition)* _____.

The time keeper is _____.

Each participant speaks for 4 minutes and 30 seconds. The bell is sounded at 3 minutes and again at 4 minutes 15 seconds, at which time the speaker has 15 seconds to finish up. Anyone speaking for longer than 4 minutes and 30 seconds will incur a time penalty. I will now ask the timekeeper to sound the bell *(pause)*.

Heckling and sarcastic remarks are out of place and will be penalised by the adjudicators. Personalized, individual remarks are not tolerated and both teams are asked to refrain from using offensive language when challenging an argument. Offensive or hurtful speech is not tolerated by the Concern Debates programme and goes against the ethos of the competition.

I will now call on the Captain of the proposition _____ to open this evening’s debate.”



CHAIRPERSON'S SAMPLE SPEECH

During the debate between each speech:

"I will now call on the Captain of the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the second speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the second speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the third speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the third speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the fourth speaker for the proposition _____."

"I will now call on the fourth speaker for the opposition _____."

"I will now call on the Captain for the opposition _____ to sum up."

"I will now call on the Captain for the proposition _____ to sum up."

Sample closing speech for face-to-face debates:

"I would like to thank both teams for their participation here today. Our adjudicators will now confer to provide feedback and results which will be announced shortly. Thank you."

Sample results announcement for face-to-face debates:

I now invite our Chief Adjudicator to address the house and announce the result.

Once result delivered: Thank you to our adjudicators and congratulations to both teams on such an engaging debate.

