

# Enticing Introductions

You've got your topic. You're sitting at your desk ready to debate...you stand up...and nothing comes out of your mouth. How do you even START?!

An introduction is the first thing the judges hear from you, their first chance to form an opinion of you as a debater. A proper introduction should be about 15 to 45 seconds long and should do the following things:

- a) Answer the question 'why are we having this debate?'
- b) Tell the judges exactly what you're debating and your stance on the topic
- c) Draw the judges in and interest them
- d) Set up your speech

You do not need to welcome every member sitting in the room to the debate. It is more than adequate to say "Good morning " and move on into the rest of your introduction. A debater timed herself and it takes approximately 30 seconds to go through all of the niceties and greet everyone in the room, as well as go over the resolution. In a four minute speech, that is 1/8<sup>th</sup> of your time!

A good introduction is simple. *"Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen." See? Easy. The next step is to answer the question why we're having this debate. "Ladies and gentlemen, the world we are living in is going through many challenges. These problems include a global recession, our enormous amount of garbage and waste, freshwater scarcity, and many more. We on side Opposition believe that although are planet is in peril, nuclear power will not improve it."* (Nasra M. Regina Huda School 2009) This is a good example of answering exactly why this debate is important, getting the judges engaged and explaining your stance of the topic.

Another way of doing this is by starting with a quote. *"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Ladies and gentlemen, there is evil all over the world, and it is the responsibility of us, the good men, to take it upon ourselves to do something. That is why, this resolution of "This house supports our troops in Afghanistan" is so important and why we, the proposition stand behind it."*

Other ways to start your introduction include:

- startling statistics
- scene setting story
- Building background
- Rhetorical questions



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Try a new enticing intro today and make a great first impression!