



Session 6

Preparation Practice



Warm-up: 1-Minute Motion Panic

In pairs, label yourself Opp or Prop
You will get a silly motion.

You have:

30 seconds to think
30 seconds to speak

Your job:

defend your side
make one argument
explain it clearly

This House would ban Mondays

Use:

I think... because...

Instruction

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This House believes all school
uniforms should include capes

Use:
I think... because...

Instruction

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You will get a silly motion.

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Your job:

defend your side
make one argument
explain it clearly

This House would make naps
compulsory after lunch

Use:

I think... because...

Instruction

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In pairs, label yourself Opp or Prop
You will get a silly motion.

You have:
30 seconds to think
30 seconds to speak

Your job:
defend your side
make one argument
explain it clearly

This House would make
dessert the main course.

Use:
I think... because...

Instruction

What were you doing?

In this warm-up, you were:

- Thinking under pressure
- Choosing a side quickly
- Making one clear point
- Speaking without over-preparing

That is exactly what debate prep often feels like.

Start by understanding the motion.

Before you argue, ask:

What is the motion actually asking?
What do the key words mean?
What exactly are we arguing for or against?

Do not argue the wrong version of the motion.

Instruction

Example Motion:

This House would ban non-essential cosmetic surgery

Ask:

- What counts as non-essential?
- Are we talking about surgery for appearance only?
- Are medical or reconstructive procedures included?

Clear definitions help your whole team stay focused.



What is the line of clash?

A line of clash is the main disagreement between the two teams.

Good teams do not just list ideas.

They identify what both sides will really disagree about.

What matters most in this debate?

What is the line of clash?

Motion:

This House would ban non-essential
cosmetic surgery

What matters most in this debate?

Possible lines of clash:

- Individual Freedom vs Protection from Harm
- Choice vs social pressure
- Regulation vs prohibition

Instruction

What is the line of clash?

Motion:

This House would ban non-essential
cosmetic surgery

What matters most in this debate?

Possible lines of clash:

- Individual Freedom vs Protection from Harm
- Choice vs social pressure
- Regulation vs prohibition

Ask these questions

- What will both sides definitely disagree about?
- Which disagreement matters most?
- Which argument is easiest to explain clearly?
- Which point will matter most to the judge?

Who does what: recap

In Mace-style debating, each team has 3 speakers:

- 1st speaker
- 2nd speaker
- Summary speaker

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1st speaker

- opens the case
- explains the team's position
- gives the first main argument

Who does what: recap

In Mace-style debating, each team has 3 speakers:

- 1st speaker
- 2nd speaker
- Summary speaker

1st speaker

- opens the case
- explains the team's position
- gives the first main argument

2nd speaker

- develops the case
- answers the other side
- gives more rebuttal

Who does what: recap

In Mace-style debating, each team has 3 speakers:

- 1st speaker
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1st speaker

- opens the case
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2nd speaker

- develops the case
- answers the other side
- gives more rebuttal

Summary speaker

- explains the key clash in the debate
- compares both sides
- tells the audience why their team won

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- explains the key clash in the debate
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Remember it like this

First speaker = set up

Second speaker = defend and rebut

Summary speaker = compare and close

What good prep looks like

Good teams do not write everything out word for word.

Instead, they prepare:

- A clear definition
- 2 or 3 strong arguments
- Likely opposition points
- Rebuttal ideas
- A strong closing line

Prepare the case, not a full essay.



Practice

Your turn

In groups of 3, you will be given:

- One motion
- One side

You have 10-15 minutes to prepare:

- First speaker opening
- Second speaker rebuttal idea
- Summary speaker close

This prep will be used in the next lesson's mini-Mace, so keep your notes.



This House would abolish the Monarchy.

Checklist

Make sure your team has:

- Understood the motion
- Picked a main line of clash
- Chosen 2 or 3 strong points
- Divided the roles clearly
- Prepared one strong closing line

Be ready to share

At the end of prep, your group should be able to share:

- Your motion
- Your side
- Your strongest argument
- Your main clash
- Your closing line

Can another team understand your case clearly?

Use the Session 6 Prep sheet to help you



Complete one sentence:

- A line of clash is...
- Good team prep means...
- My speaker role next lesson is...
- Our strongest point is...