Debating in English

Welcoming the audience

Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen. Today's debate is ... versus (v / vs) ...

Phrases to present the most important point

The most important argument for ... is ... The main argument for... is... It's true / clear / obvious that ... There's no doubt that ... First (of all), I'd like to say that ... To begin with, ...

Sequencing a list of arguments

Secondly, ... Thirdly, ... The second argument in favor of ... The next argument I'd like to state is... You also have to consider the fact that ...

Illustrating a point

For example, ... / For instance, ... A good example of this is...

Conceding an argument

I agree with you that ... On the other hand, ... I agree with you that ... However, ... Although / Even though it is true that... I believe that... I see your point, but I think / in my opinion ...

Disagreeing

I'm not (so) sure about that. I disagree entirely. I can't agree with you on that point. This is nonsense! This is ridiculous! You must be kidding!

Concluding

To conclude, ... Finally, ...