MSDA
MALAYSIAN SPEECH & DEBATE ACADEMY

FREE GUIDE

Speak Up, Stand Out.

Why debate, and how a debate actually works. For curious kids, brave teens and the parents cheering them on.

Prep time 07:00

TODAY'S MOTION

This House would let students choose their own homework.

PROPOSITION

Yes, because...

OPPOSITION

But have you considered...



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WHY DEBATE?

Six reasons it changes everything

Debate isn't just a competition skill. It shapes how a child thinks, learns and is seen by the world.

⭐

Confidence that lasts

Speaking up in class, at interviews and in life gets easier with every speech.

🔍

Sharper thinking

Weighing evidence, spotting weak arguments and making up their own minds.

✍️

Stronger English

Vocabulary, structure and fluency grow naturally, in speaking and writing.

📁

A portfolio that opens doors

Awards and leadership roles that scholarship panels and universities notice.

🤝

Leadership and teamwork

Debate is a team sport: planning together, giving feedback, leading.

🚀

Future-proof skills

Persuasion and critical thinking, the skills AI can't replace.

Wherever your child starts, the right exposure can take them somewhere different. Many of the best speakers we know were once the quietest in class.

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DEBATE IN 60 SECONDS

So... what actually is a debate?

Two teams argue about a statement called a **motion**. One team supports it, the other opposes it, and a judge decides who argued *better*, not who shouted louder. It's a sport, but for your brain.

👍

Proposition

Argues *for* the motion.

👎

Opposition

Argues *against* the motion.

⚖️

Judge

Decides who won, and explains why.

HOW A ROUND WORKS

STEP 1 Motion revealed → **STEP 2** Team prep → **STEP 3** Speeches take turns → **STEP 4** Rebuttals → **STEP 5** Judge decides

SPEAK LIKE A PRO: 4 QUICK WINS

🧍 **Stand tall**
You look confident before you say a word.

👀 **Look up**
Talk to people, not to your notes.

🐢 **Slow down**
A pause sounds powerful.

🪧 **Signpost**
"I have two points. First…"

🔒 **In class, not in this guide:** what each speaker does, how to prepare a case in 30 minutes, and how judges really decide. We cover all of it in Rebuttal Rookies and Weekly Training.

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MEET YOUR COACH



Sharon Jessy

FOUNDER AND CEO, MSDA

Ipoh-raised. World-tested. Now coaching yours.

- Champion, 2016 Australasian Debate Championship (ESL)
- National Moot Court Champion; represented Malaysia in Washington, D.C. and at the ICC in The Hague
- Chevening Scholar; Master's, King's College London
- Competition Lead, English-Speaking Union, London
- Litigator with 10 years' experience
- International adjudicator, regularly invited to judge debate, moot court and public speaking

MSDA brings global opportunities to your quaint city, and partners with parents of ambitious students to chart their pathway to success. **Meet all our coaches and their accreditations →**

COMING UP WITH MSDA

Rebuttal Rookies

7–31 DEC 2026 · ONLINE

Year-end debate camp for beginners. Juniors 9–13 and Seniors 14–18, 20 seats each.

Weekly Training

ALL YEAR · AGES 6–18

Public speaking and debate, two levels each, in small live groups.

Ipoh Mali Debate

APRIL 2027 · SPOTS OPEN JAN 2027

Exclusively for Ipoh students to show off their speaking calibre. Junior and Senior, 20 teams each.

Future Thinkers Cup

MAY 2027 · OPEN TO ALL

Our national tournament. Junior and Senior categories, 40 teams each.

Ready to find their voice?

Look out for Guide 2: Your First Argument. Or message us now.

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