

University of Salahaddin-Erbil
College of Education
Department of Mathematics



Academic Skills

First stage- Mathematics Department

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Academic Debate



Important questions:

- **What is Debating?**
- **Why debate is important?**
- **What makes a good debater?**



- In a word, the essential point in any debating situation is that of convincing the listener that your side of the proposition is desirable."

(from *How to Debate* by Harrison Boyd Summers)



What is Debate?

- **A debate is a contest, like a game, where two or more speakers present their arguments intent on persuading one another.**



Why debate is important?

There are a vast amount of different reasons that lead people and especially students to debate:

- ❖ Debating creates opportunities-
- ❖ Debating improves skills -
- ❖ Debating leads to understanding –
- ❖ Learns to use a library, and to find the exact information you needs in the shortest possible time.
- ❖ Learns to be thorough and accurate.



- ❖ **Learns to analyze; to distinguish between the vital and the unimportant.**
- ❖ **Learns the need of proving his statements; of supporting every statement with valid evidence.**
- ❖ **Learns to present ideas in a clear and effective manner, and in a way which wins others to his way of thinking.**
- ❖ **Learns to think under pressure, to "use his head" in a time of need, to make decisions quickly and accurately.**
- ❖ **Debating is important because it allows both sides of an issue to be considered, and reveals a large number of facts about a topic.**



What makes a good debater?

- **Debaters challenge ideas, they do not attack each other. As in other sports, the fair play is crucial.**
- **Debaters will eventually have to speak for both sides, so it does not help to be too emotionally invested.**
- **A debater is a spokesperson for or against a motion only for the time being, not a fanatic with an unquestionable cause**





How to Get Started in Debate?

- **Read for background information about the subject.**
- **Prepare a comprehensive bibliography.**
- **Collect as much material as you can find.**
- **Read and study the material discovered.**



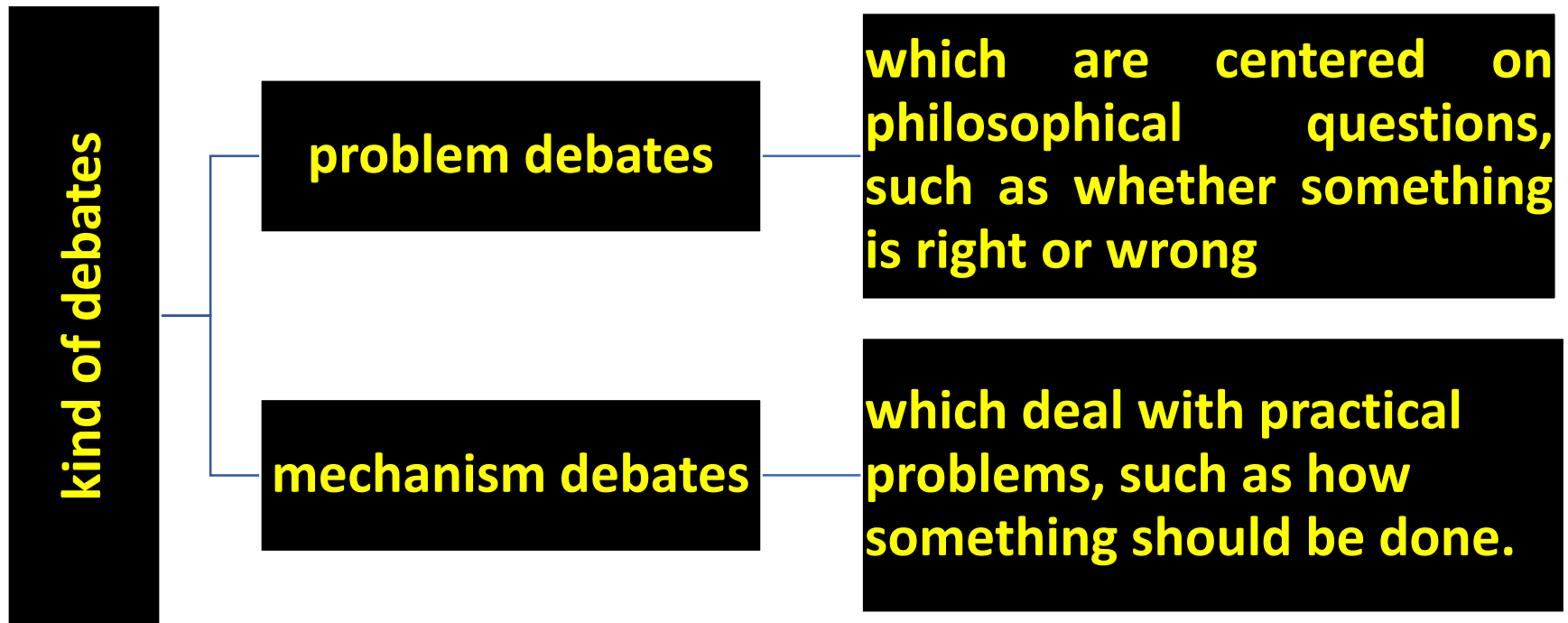
Read for background:

- ❖ **Get a good general knowledge of the proposition (topic) you are to debate.**
- ❖ **Study the historical background of the topic and why this topic is a matter of current interest**
- ❖ **Reading order should be from the general to the specific, from background to present-day facts and figures, from books to magazines to newspapers.**



Debate Details

- Every kind of debate has two sides, but there are two general types of debates:



Thank you!

