

# Debate

**THE POWER OF  
PERSUASIVENESS**



# What is Debate?

- 🍌 **Fourth step in handling a debatable motion**
- 🍌 **Essential element in arriving at a sensible, rational choice**
- 🍌 **Formal discussion of opposing views**
- 🍌 **Deliberation toward a final decision**





# Obtaining the Floor



**A member rises**

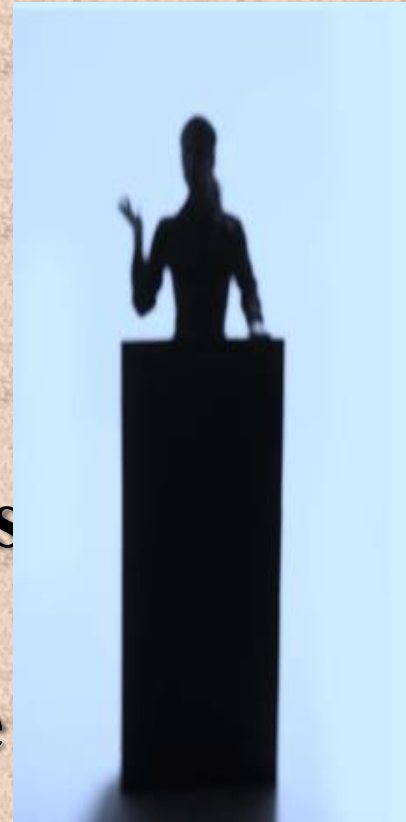


**Addresses the chair by saying, “*Mr./Madam President*”**

# Assigning the Floor

**Chair announces member's name or title**

- 👉 **Maker of the motion has right to speak first in debate**
- 👉 **If two or more rise, the chair calls on the member who rose and addressed the chair first after the floor was yielded**







# **Rules Governing Debate**

- 🍌 **A member may speak twice for no longer than ten minutes each time**
- 🍌 **No member is entitled to speak a second time while any other member wishes to make a first speech**
- 🍌 **Remarks must be confined to the merits of the pending question**
- 🍌 **Members may not speak directly to each other**



# **Additional Rules Governing Debate**

- 🧡 **Questions and remarks must be addressed to or through the chair**
- 🧡 **Members may not speak against their own motions, but may vote against them**
- 🧡 **Members' motives may not be attacked**
- 🧡 **A courteous tone must be maintained**





# More Rules Governing Debate

*This is why you  
should support  
my position...*



- 🧠 Reading from books and reports is only allowed with permission of the assembly
- 🧠 No member may comment adversely on any prior act of the assembly that is not pending
- 🧠 Rights in debate are not transferable
- 🧠 If a speaker yields to another member for a question, the time consumed by the question is charged to the original speaker





# **More Rules about Debate**

- 🧡 **A committee chairman or reporting member is not considered to be debating when presenting or reading the committee's report**
- 🧡 **A member who is interrupted by the chair must be seated and stop speaking immediately**
- 🧡 **Usually, the chair may not participate in debate without relinquishing the chair**



# Including Motions in Debate

A member may conclude remarks in debate by offering a secondary motion. It may be:

- 🧡 Subsidiary
- 🧡 Privileged
- 🧡 Incidental



I'M  
GOMA  
MAKE IT  
BETTER



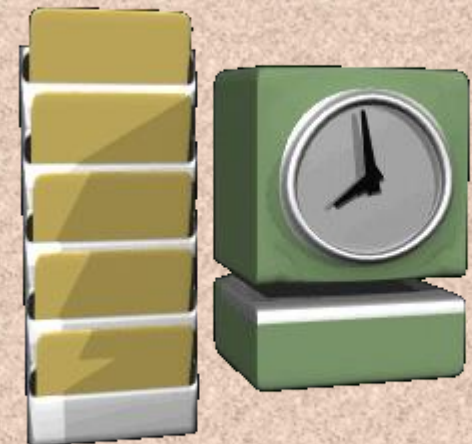
# Motions Affecting the Time for Debate

## Limit Debate

- 🧡 Reduces the number or length of speeches
- 🧡 Sets a time to conclude debate
- 🧡 Requires a two-thirds vote for adoption

## Extend limits of debate

- 🧡 Allows for more or longer speeches
- 🧡 Requires a two-thirds vote for adoption





# **Motions Affecting Debate**

## **Previous Question**

- 👉 **Immediately closes debate**
- 👉 **Requires a two-thirds vote for adoption**

## **Committee of the Whole, Quasi Committee of the Whole, or Informal Consideration**

- 👉 **No limit on number of speeches**
- 👉 **Requires a majority vote for adoption**





**“It is better to debate a  
question without settling it,  
than to settle a question  
without debating it.”**

**— Joseph Joubert**