



All of Debate Mate’s student training workshops are led by university students who are recruited from top UK universities and trained to deliver our tried and tested Core Curriculum.

Workshops can be delivered across a half-day, full-day or in a series of sessions throughout the year. All sessions can be tailored to the needs of your students, incorporating topics and debate motions relevant to their learning needs. Debate Mate works on a ratio of 1 mentor to 15 (secondary) or 12 (primary) students, and can work with any number of students, from one group up to an entire year group.

Please see below a sample outline of the first five training workshops, which could be delivered across one full day or spread across several days.

Session Name	Session Details
Session 1: Introduction to making arguments and speaking with confidence	<p>In this introduction to debating, all students will be encouraged to use their voice in a range of high-energy activities designed to build confidence in speaking.</p> <p>Students will learn the fundamentals of making effective arguments while developing their ability to think critically and creatively.</p>
Session 2: Making your own arguments with style	<p>In this session, students will be introduced to ‘style’ and explore its importance in constructing and delivering effective arguments.</p> <p>The mentor will model examples of good and bad style and students will be encouraged to break down the features of a strong speech and the qualities of a strong speaker. Students will then take part in a number of interactive exercises to develop their own style using the techniques identified.</p>
Session 3: Using PEEL	<p>This workshop will explore the process of taking ‘an idea’ and turning it into ‘a case’. It will support participants in taking an instinctive reaction or an initial thought and building it into a robust and persuasive argument.</p> <p>Using Debate Mate’s PEEL structure, participants will learn how to synthesise complex information and demarcate their arguments to present well-developed, coherent points in an accessible and engaging manner.</p>
Session 4: Responding to arguments	<p>Having developed a solid grounding in making their own persuasive arguments, students will learn and apply the key differences between making an argument and responding to one.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the concepts of rebuttal and Points of Information, developing their active listening skills and ability to think quickly on the spot and deal with being interrupted and challenged.</p>
Session 5: The Debate	<p>Before participating in their first formal debate, students will learn the format and rules of a debate and how preparation time can be used most effectively. Each student will receive personalised feedback on their performance in the debate, including key strengths and areas for development.</p> <p>Debate Mate has a large bank of engaging motions on topics such as education, the environment, health, international relations, law, politics, science and technology, society and sport. The debate motion can be agreed in advance with the session organiser.</p>