

Writing A Debate Speech

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Structure

- Usually six paragraphs
- Introduction
- Point One
- Refuting Point or Points Made By Opposition
- Point Two
- Point Three
- Conclusion

Introduction

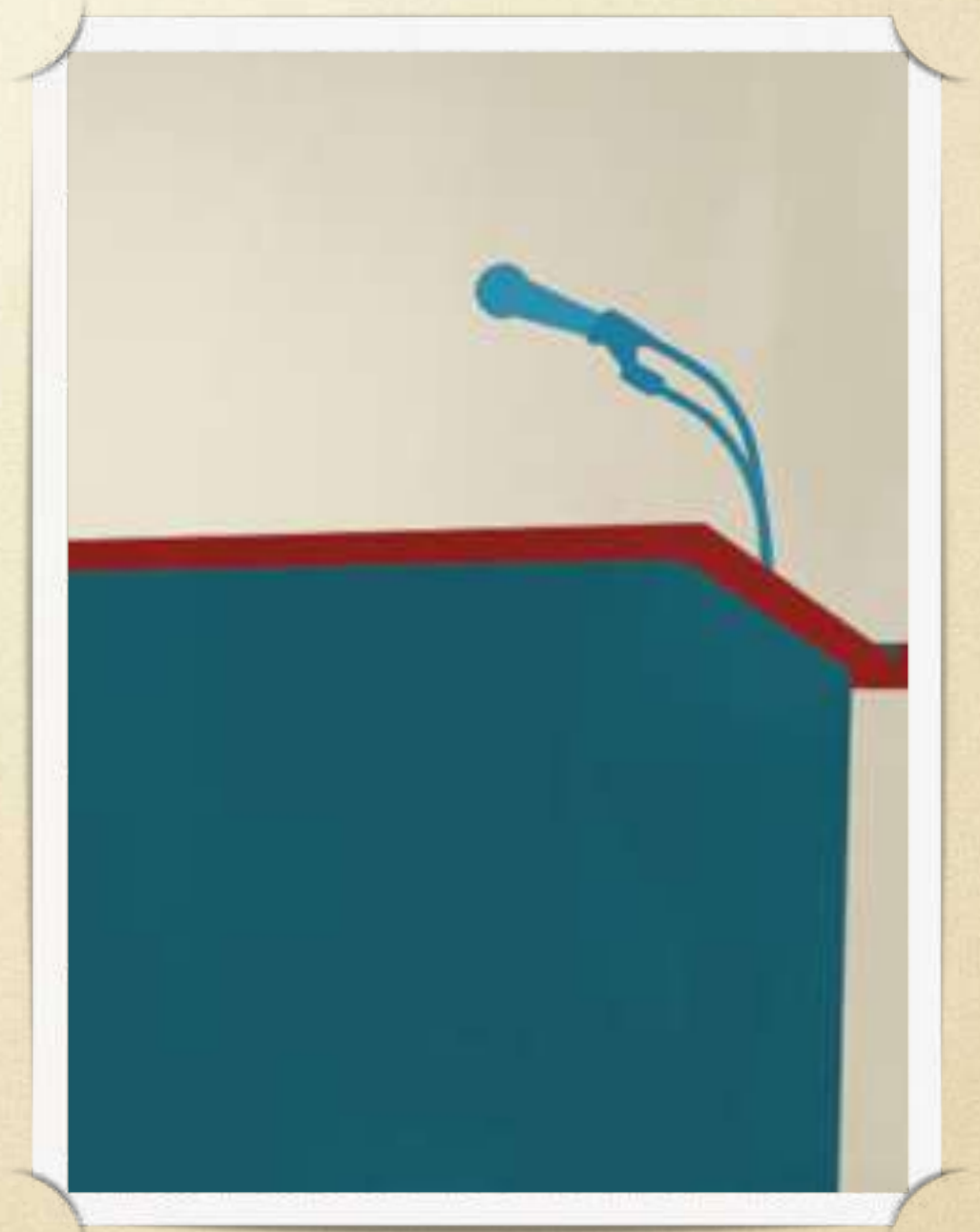
- ‘Good evening chairperson, distinguished guests, fellow speakers, ladies and gentlemen.’
- You may wish to tailor this to suit the situation. For example, if the Lord Mayor is present, you will probably wish to address him directly in the introduction.



Speech/Debate

Points

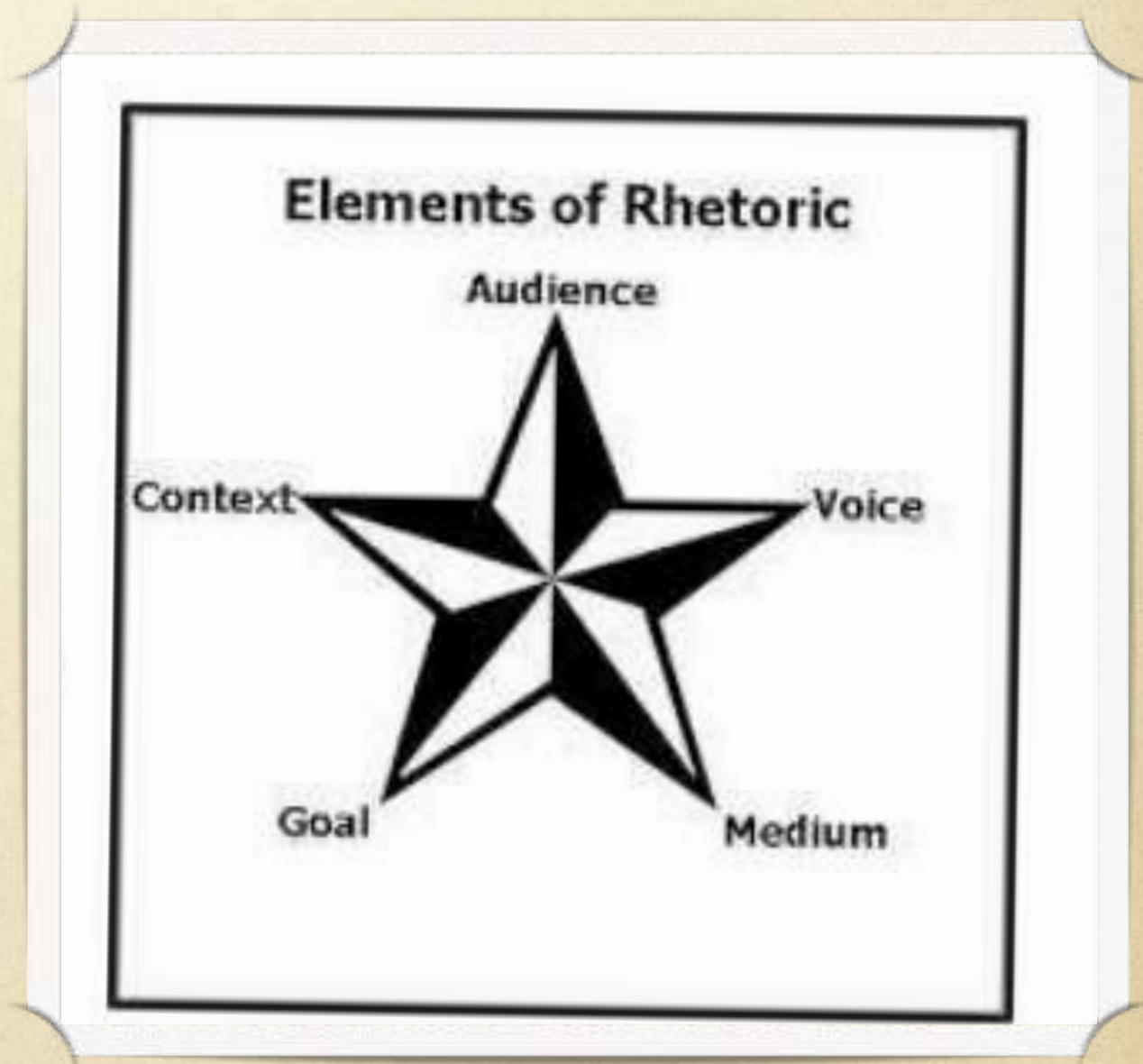
- Aim to make three points supporting your case.
- Set out these points in your introduction. 'I will use the following three points to support my argument: firstly..., secondly... and finally...'



- State your point clearly and decisively
- If you are discussing a problem, look at the causes and the effects of the problem.
- Support your point with evidence (you can make this up but it should be credible)
- Show that this evidence proves your point
- Suggests a solution
- You may wish to **briefly** acknowledge and refute the opposition's points. This should be a single paragraph in length only.

Rhetorical Devices - Be Sure To Use Them!

- Address the audience occasionally
- Make your sources sound credible if you have made them up: 'A recent article in the Irish Times stated....' or 'A report commissioned by the HSE showed...'



- Rhetorical questions are a good way to make the audience consider your points
- Humour can be used, but be careful!
- Appeal to the audience's sense of fair play and their desire to do the right thing

Language

- Debate speeches are very formal, so avoid slang and casual expressions.
- Use repetition to drive home your point: 'We must act, we must act quickly and we must act decisively'.



Conclusion

- Make it clear that you are finishing your speech: 'In conclusion, then,
- Give a brief and clear summary of your three points so the audience / adjudicators remember them
- If you have a good quote, now is the time to use it.
- Thank the audience for listening and urge them to support or oppose the motion

