



Oxford  
Scholastica  
ACADEMY

---



**EXPERIENCE  
DEBATE &  
PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
ACADEMY**



***READING LIST***

---

# WELCOME

to the Oxford Scholastica

## Experience Debate & Public Speaking Academy!

We're all looking forward to meeting you and delving into the world of debate and public speaking together!

## Preparing for your classes

Many of our students ask us how they can make the most out of their courses by doing some pre-course preparation, so we've given you some ideas here. Don't worry though – we don't expect you to do all this! We know how busy you are, and the preparation is optional. But if you'd like to make a head start, here are our suggestions...



## Activities to do

---

You can choose to make notes about a public speaker you particularly admire, explaining what makes this public speaker interesting to focus on. If you can, find a short video clip of the person speaking on YouTube, and we'll then play these clips in the first class.

Alternatively, you can think about the most effective speech/debate/presentation you have ever seen. This can be live or from a film or a video clip online. Please make a list of things that made this delivery particularly effective.

# RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

---

If you would like to get to grips with some of the topics we will be covering during the Academy, the following links will be of interest.

- 1.** Take a look at these great speeches from history. Which ones stand out to you and why?

<https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/series/greatspeeches>

- 2.** Here are Time Magazine's top ten speeches. Take a look at a selection from the list - what do you notice about them?

<https://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/compl etelist/0,29569,1841228,00.html>



- 3.** Watch Nancy Duarte's 'The Secret Structure of Great Talks' (TedxEast).

[https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy\\_duarte\\_the\\_secret\\_st ructure\\_of\\_great\\_talks](https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_duarte_the_secret_st ructure_of_great_talks)

- 4.** Listen to Julian Treasure: How To Speak So That People Want To Listen (TEDGlobal).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elho2SoZahl>

- 5.** In this video Tony Blair (former Prime Minister of the UK) and Christopher Hitchens (an English critic of religion and antitheist) discuss whether religion is a force for good in the world. We can discuss your views in class.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP6R3R\\_UIHo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP6R3R_UIHo)



- 6.** An article (from Debating Matters – the UK schools' debating competition), which looks at the influx of fake news in social media. A good example of making an argument.

<https://debatingmatters.com/topic/social-media-sites-should-filter-out-fake-news/>

- 7.** If you have time, please watch this video which shows how mooting (legal style debates) takes place. Don't worry too much about the law - this is just to let you see a different style of debating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQAeoPuuU3k>





# BEST BOOKS TO READ

---

**Here are some more ideas!**

**8.** We recommend you get hold of *Winning Arguments: From Aristotle to Obama - Everything You Need To Know About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs. This book is a useful guide to many of the key methods of persuading your audience in almost any situation. If you are pushed for time, just have a look at Chapters 4, 5 and 6 which are particularly useful.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Winning-Arguments-Aristotle-Everything-Persuasion/dp/0141032588>

**9.** Reading through the websites of the English-Speaking Union and the Cambridge Union would be helpful. Both organisations publish a downloadable guide with rules and helpful advice. If you are extra-keen and are looking for other interesting books on debating and public speaking, have a look at the following:

Dominic Hughes and Benedict Philips, *'The Oxford Union Guide to Speaking in Public'*  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Union-Guide-Speaking-Public/dp/0753509555>

Anthony Weston, *'Rulebook For Arguments'*  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Rulebook-Arguments-5th-Anthony-Weston/dp/162466654X>

Sam Leith, *'You Talkin' To Me?'*  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/You-Talkin-Me-Rhetoric-Aristotle/dp/1846683165>

Neill Harvey Smith, *'The Practical Guide To Debating'*  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Practical-Guide-Debating-World-Styles/dp/1617700169>



**Oxford  
Scholastica**  
ACADEMY

---

**If you'd like any more resources, please feel free to ask us!**

**To explore a full course outline of what you will be studying, please see here.**

**<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-summer-courses/debate-summer-school/experience/#outline>**

**We hope you're as excited as we are to start the course and join us in Oxford!**

