

Useful Debating Words & Phrases

If you want to...

...introduce your arguments:

First, I'd like to say.,
Besides, ...
Then, ...
Finally,
I suppose you'll agree that,..
Indeed, ...
Actually...
As a matter of fact ...
On the one hand...
On the other hand...

...say you agree:

I agree with you.
I (do) agree with what you said.
I think so too.
I think you are right to say that
It (certainly) is true that...

... say you don't agree:

I don't think so.
I beg to differ.
I am sorry but, ...
I don't agree with you on that point.
I don't follow you.
You don't seem to be aware of / that...
I don't understand.

...express your opinion:

I'd like to say that
I [strongly) believe that
Don't you think that...
In my opinion
As far as I am concerned, I think that...
I am totally against...

...rephrase what the other team said,:

As you said,
You said that...

You told us that...
You mentioned that...
What do you mean when you say that...
What did you mean when you said that...
You made a good point when you said that...
Did you really mean it when you said that...
You just mentioned that...

...conclude:

To conclude, I'd like to say that...
In conclusion, ...
As a conclusion...

...give yourself time to think :

Well,...
Hum,...
So,...
..., er, ...
You know,...
You see, ...
I mean,...
You know what I mean,...
What I mean is...
Do you see what I mean ?
... if you see what I mean...
Well, what I'm trying to say is...
How can I say this,...
Now, to get back to what I was saying...
Let's see,...
Let me think,...
Er, let me see...
Give me a second,
... just a moment
How shall I put it ?
..., now, what's the word... ?
Anyway, the point is...
Mind you, I'd also like to say...
Actually,...
In fact...
In actual facts...