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| **Lesson Title:** Oral Presentation (a Debate) | | **Theme:** Listening and Speaking | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-110 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Develop skills for a debate.  2. Develop skills and ability for public speaking. | | | |

**Overview**

A **debate** is a discussion with two opposing sides. On one side, people argue ‘for’ something. On the other side, people argue ‘against’ it. A debate is a type of **oral presentation**. We use the following techniques when giving oral presentations:

* Speak clearly in simple language so that people can understand you.
* Express yourself well in proper English.
* Speak loudly so that everyone can hear you.
* Be polite and respectful.

A debate begins like a speech. Therefore, it must start with **vocatives**. Vocatives are words that address someone (example: ladies and gentlemen). Then, you must state your side. (Example: I am in favour of the statement ‘fishing is a better livelihood than farming’.)

In a debate, speakers take turns. After the first speaker finishes, the other gives an opening speech. Then, each speaker goes back and forth making points. They also respond to the other speaker’s points.

Here is a sample opening speech:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow debaters, I greet you all. I stand here today to debate on the topic, ‘Girls are more of a blessing to their parents than boys’, and I am for the motion. I strongly believe that girls are more of a blessing to their parents than boys.

Girls are more of a blessing to their parents because they help their parents with household chores. When Mother is busy with one chore like cooking, a girl child can help with washing up, cleaning or sweeping.

Girls can also help their parents take care of their younger siblings. A girl child is caring and when girls are older, they help look after their baby sisters or brothers. My fellow debater would say that boys are stronger and can be of more help to their parents, but I believe that girls can do more because they are caring.

Girls can also look after their parents when they are sick and be a blessing to them. A male child may be too busy playing football with his friends to care.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these are my arguments, and I thank you for listening.

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Imagine that you are a speaker in a school debate on the topic: Education is better than silver and gold. Identify points for and against the motion.

**Activity 2**

Imagine that you are the main speaker in the debate on the topic: Social media has caused more harm than good in our country. Identify points for and against the motion

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**Activity 1**

Example points for the motion:

* Education gives you tools you need to make money.
* Education makes you independent and self-reliant so that you can earn money and create your own businesses or develop your own ideas.
* When you spend money, you then have less, but not so with education.

Example points against the motion:

* Without money there is no quality education.
* Education does not guarantee success and a life of comfort, but money can.
* Money is what buys the things you need in life and pays for necessities, not education.

**Activity 2**

Example points for the motion:

* With social media information is transmitted very fast.
* Social media brings together people of diverse backgrounds.
* Social media helps businesses advertise for less and gives opportunities for small businesses to grow.
* In health and education, social media has increased access to information.

Example points against the motion:

* Social media has been responsible for the introduction of profane or blasphemous information about people.
* Social media is a distraction and people get addicted to it.
* Social media makes pupils write poorly because they use slang and abbreviations.
* People do not read the news carefully; they only see popular stories on social media.