



English-Speaking Union Scotland

Debating in Schools

Courses for teachers 2009





Learning with ESU Scotland

The English-Speaking Union, a global voluntary sector movement founded in 1918, is dedicated to promoting international friendship and human achievement through the English language.

For more than 50 years the ESU has fostered debating and public speaking in schools and has acquired a unique expertise in training young people in the skills involved. The ESU holds a pre-eminent position as the leading educator in speech and debate in the UK.

In 2006, ESU Scotland was commissioned by The Scottish Government to develop on-line training resources. These are available at <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/debatinginschools>

In February 2008, Learning and Teaching Scotland became our partners in Phase 2 of the Debating In Schools Project, which involves developing the online materials further and launching a major programme of CPD training. This will ensure that Scottish teachers are aware of the value of speech and debate, alert them to the online resources, and train them in their use both inside and outside the classroom.

In the first phase of CPD training between January and March, ESU Scotland will have worked with over 150 teachers from 18 authorities. The feedback so far has been outstanding.

We hope that over the course of 2009 we will work with many more teachers from around Scotland. This in turn will help hundreds of pupils around the country gain for the first time from the many benefits that speech and debate activities offer.

“ The session was not just thoroughly useful but also great fun! I now feel I have the tools and the confidence to go ahead and incorporate debate in the classroom. ”

Teacher, Menzieshill High School



What CPD opportunities are available?

All children, regardless of academic ability or social background, can benefit from taking part in speech and debate activities. All school pupils can acquire enhanced analytical skills, improved listening and talking abilities and increased levels of confidence.

In January we launched our new CPD programme, in partnership with Learning & Teaching Scotland. This brochure outlines the CPD opportunities open to schools and local authorities. These comprise [Training The Trainer Days](#) and [In-school workshops](#)

Training The Trainer Days

The most efficient way of spreading best practice in speech and debate across Scotland's schools is by offering in-depth training to local authority staff and teachers who can then pass their knowledge on to colleagues (as well as being able to use these techniques in the classroom themselves!)

The Training The Trainer workshops will take place at the ESU HQ in Edinburgh throughout 2009.

In-School Workshops

As well as the Training The Trainer workshops, ESU Scotland will run in-school workshops where our staff will work with teachers at an individual school or with a local authority cluster.

To make sure each school's needs are covered, there are a number of workshops available, and these can be further tailored to suit your need.

The value of speech and debate in schools

Speech and debate activities address directly the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence :

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- responsible citizens
- effective contributors

Speech and Debate activities can be used in every subject, and at every level, in line with the cross-curricular emphasis of the experiences and outcomes for literacy and English. They are enjoyable and educational extra-curricular activities, but also an invaluable and efficient teaching tool in the classroom.

This has been recognised by the Scottish Government and by Learning and Teaching Scotland, with whom the ESU works closely on the development and implementation of training resources for the teaching profession.

Cost

The prices for both types of course are deliberately kept low through our partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland. We want as many teachers as possible to benefit from this CPD, and as many pupils as possible to benefit in turn.

“ Very useful and practical ideas to introduce skills to pupils. ”
Teacher, Larbert High School

Training The Trainer Courses

These full-day courses take place at the ESU Scotland HQ in Edinburgh. They provide an in-depth training to local authority staff and teachers in how best to use speech and debate in schools. You can take just Day 1 or both Day 1 and Day 2. We would recommend attending Training The Trainer Day 1 before attending Day 2, unless you have prior knowledge of debating.

Training the Trainer Day 1: Introduction to Debate

1 day course
£30 per person
Held at ESU Scotland HQ
Edinburgh

Dates:
April 23rd 2009
May 14th 2009
September 17th 2009
November 12th 2009

Training the Trainer Day 2: Classroom and Extra- Curricular Debating

1 day course
£30 per person
Held at ESU Scotland HQ
Edinburgh

Dates:
April 30th 2009
May 21st 2009
September 24th 2009
November 19th 2009

This course provides a foundation in debating with many practical activities. It is particularly suitable for teachers with little or no prior experience in debate.

This course covers the following:

- Introduction to the Debating In Schools Resources
- How debating matches the capacities of Curriculum For Excellence
- The educational value of speech and debate
- Debating basics - concepts and formats
- Brainstorming
- Grouping and allocating arguments
- How to structure a speech
- Types of argument
- How to structure an argument
- Listening and response - rebuttal and points of information

Suitable for both Primary and Secondary Teachers

Day 2 is suitable for teachers who have some debating experience and those who have attended Day 1. It looks in more depth at different way debating can be used to build pupils' skills.

This course covers the following:

- Debating in the classroom - how to involve the whole class
- Debating in the classroom - use in different subjects
- Establishing a debating society
- Competitive debating - introduction
- Competitive debating - how to build and coach a debates squad
- Competitive debating - how to organise a competition
- Basic rhetorical theory

Suitable for both Primary and Secondary Teachers

In-School Workshops

These workshops are delivered on school premises by ESU Staff. The dates are chosen by the school, and ESU staff will tailor each session to each individual school's needs. These can be held throughout the year (on a date that best suits the school or authority) and there are no upper limits to the number of staff that can attend.

Effective Public Speaking

1/2 day or twilight course
£100
+ Travel expenses
Held on school premises

Effective public speaking requires the combination of a well-crafted message and dynamic delivery.

This course covers the following:

- Knowing what you want to achieve
- Knowing your audience
- Content and structure
- The importance of openings and conclusions
- Using language for impact
- Use of visual aids and notes
- The importance of delivery
- Techniques to tackle stage fright

Suitable for Primary and Secondary Teachers

Introduction to Debating

1/2 day or twilight course
£100
+ Travel expenses
Held on school premises

This half-day module is aimed at staff with little or no previous experience of debate, who are keen to introduce it to their pupils - either in the classroom or as part of an extra-curricular society.

This course covers the following:

- What is a debate?
- Debating formats
- Brainstorming
- Grouping and allocating arguments
- How to structure a speech
- Types of argument
- How to structure an argument
- Listening and response - rebuttal and points of information

Suitable for Primary and Secondary Teachers

Debating in the Classroom

1/2 day course or twilight course
£100.00
+ travel expenses

Debate offers an efficient teaching tool, which involves your pupils actively in the learning process. The skills that debate inculcates are fully in line with with the aims and objectives of Curriculum For Excellence. This half-day course is aimed at teachers who wish to explore the use of debate in this way.

Skills covered include:

- The educational value of speech and debate
- How to involve the whole class
- How to use debate in different subjects
- Case studies and examples

Suitable for Primary and Secondary Teachers

Basic Debate Coaching

1/2 day course or twilight course
£100.00
+ travel expenses

This half day module is for teachers who wish to learn the basics of coaching for competitive debate. This session will also be useful for teachers wishing to start a debating society.

Skills covered include:

- How to set up a debating society
- The squad concept
- Selecting a team
- Training Techniques
- At the competition
- How debates are judged

Suitable for Primary and Secondary Teachers

Advanced Coaching

1 day course
£30 per person
Held at ESU Scotland HQ
Edinburgh

Dates:
June 4th 2009
December 10th 2009

This module is aimed at teachers with some experience of coaching, who wish to grow their knowledge in order to bring their squad on to the next level.

Skills covered will include

- Motion analysis
- Proposition strategies
- Opposition strategies
- Effective research
- Use of evidence and statistics
- Rebuttal techniques

This CPD workshop is specialist in nature and aimed at Secondary School Teachers. Please contact the ESU for more information.

The ESU Scotland Team

The two staff members who will lead ESU Scotland's training are world standard debaters and public speakers in their own right.

■ John Duncan, Director of ESU Scotland

John was an international finalist of the John Smith Memorial Mace, the premier universities debating competition in the UK and Ireland; and a winner of TAUSA, the immediate precursor to the World Universities Debating Championships.

He has been involved in school and university debating as a speaker, coach and judge for over 30 years. He has made several speaking tours in the United States.

■ Rob Marrs, Speech & Debates Officer

Rob was a top debater at the University of Glasgow. In 2004, he was one of the two selected for the ESU's America Tour, perhaps the highest accolade available to the British student debater. (Alumni include Michael Foot, Tony Benn, Michael Howard, Lord Lamont and Lord Hunt) Since joining ESU Scotland in 2006, he has coached widely in Scotland and overseas.

Between them, they have organised eight Debates Outreach Projects around Scotland - introducing debating to over 1,500 pupils from 60 schools as well as doing individual pupil workshops at around 40 schools. They also wrote and designed the the Debating In Schools Materials for LTS and The Scottish Government.

Contact details

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Debating gives students invaluable skills in research, in logic and in the ability to defend their position. It can be a lot of fun too.

Mr. Wyllie
Head Teacher, Senior School
George Heriot's School

Debating helps you learn about important issues in the world today. As you do the research it makes you think for yourself rather than accepting what others say.

Kevin Gerrard
S4 Pupil
St. Ninian's High School

To see pupils grow in confidence and self-esteem is really worth everything and is what teaching is all about.

Mrs. Preston
Debate Coach
Marr College

Those who have taken part in debating have made huge strides in their Higher critical essay performance, writing much more fluent, well structured and cogent pieces of writing.

Mrs. Cawood
Teacher
Castle Douglas High School

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