

Audience Hot Seat

Skills focus: Adaptability | Audience Awareness | Public Speaking
Useful for: ESU Schools' Mace | ESU Public Speaking Competition

 Purpose and Impact	 Resources
Objectives: - To communicate ideas clearly and confidently. - To respond thoughtfully to questions and challenges. - To develop active listening and quick-thinking skills. Impact: Develops adaptability, audience awareness and active listening, helping students become more confident and effective communicators.	Resources Needed - Topic prompt or motion - Timer Additional resources - ESU Mace Motion Bank - ESU PSC Prompt Bank

TASK

Setup

- Select a prompt or motion from the accompanying motion bank.
- Allow 1-2 minutes of preparation time.
 - For PSC: Audience members to question speaker about their topic
 - For Mace: Audience members to take turns with POIs or rebuttals

Activity

- The speaker delivers a 30-60 second speech.
- Audience members ask questions as their given role i.e. as a mayor or teacher etc.
- The speaker responds, adapting their communication to each audience.

Evaluate

- Which response was most effective, and why?
- How well did the speaker respond to each question or challenge?
- What could they improve next time?

 Differentiation and Progression		
KS3 Familiar topics and motions. Allow longer preparation time and pauses between answering questions.	KS4 Introduce more challenging questions or rebuttals. Encourage students to justify their responses with examples or evidence	KS5/Sixth form Use unfamiliar topics or motions with rapid follow-up questions or POIs. Reduce preparation time and encourage extended responses.