



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

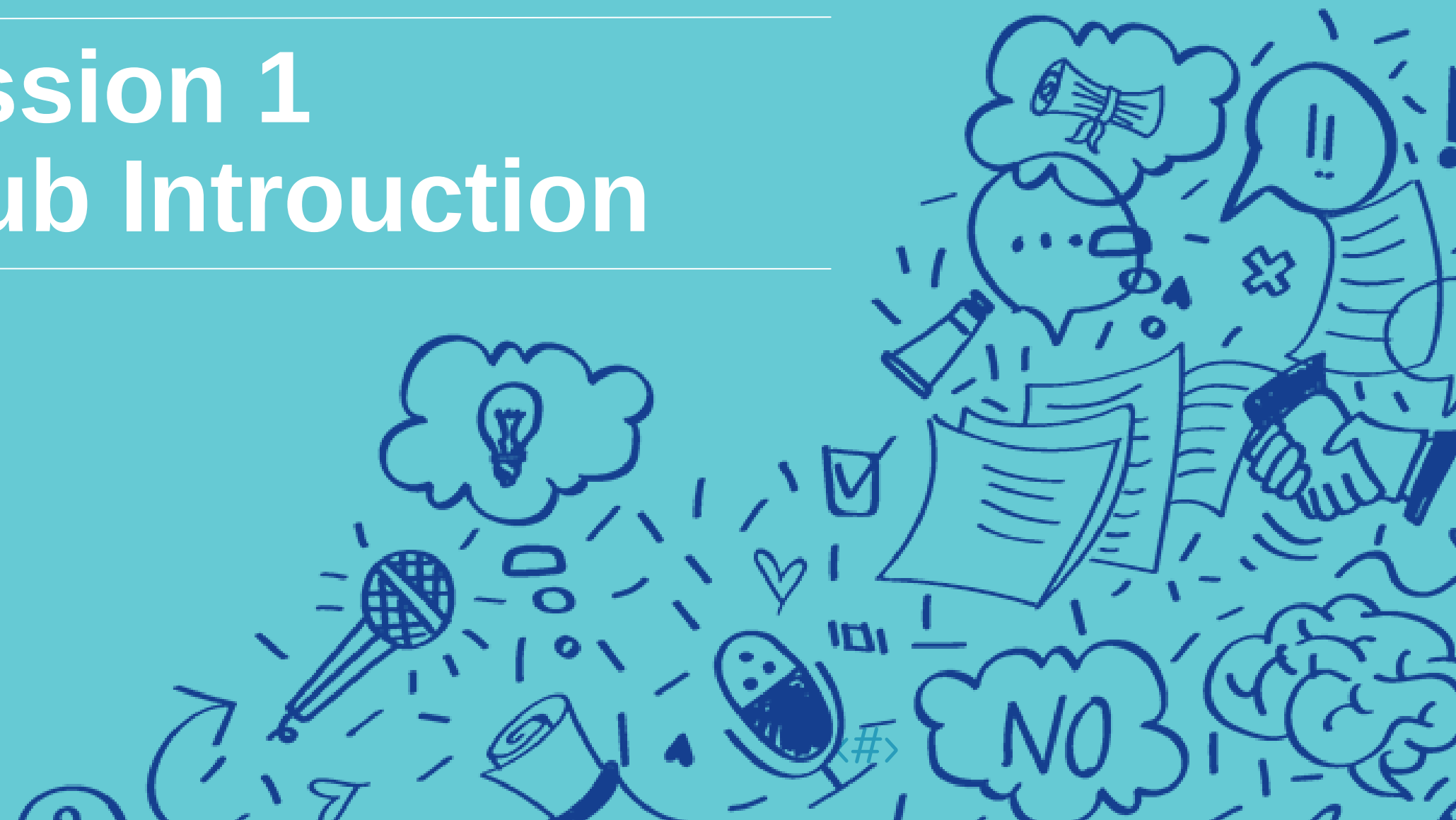
discovering voices

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# Session 1

## Debate Club Introduction

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Warm up

Look at the statement on the next slides. What is your opinion? Be ready to move to the place in the room that shows what you think:

Agree

Disagree

In the middle / not sure

Be ready to explain:  
Why are you standing there?

Pineapple belongs on pizza

School uniforms should be  
optional

Homework should be banned

Every Debate has a motion.

Many motions begin with:

“This House...”

For example:

This House would ban cars from big cities

“This House” comes from the UK debating tradition and refers to the House of Commons.

In many debates:

One team supports the motion

One team opposes the motion

Agree / Proposition:

Supports the motion

Argues in favour

Explains why the idea should happen

Disagree / Opposition:

Disagrees with the motion

Argues against it

Explains why the idea should not happen

Agree / Proposition  
This House would ban cars from  
big cities

**P: We should ban cars from big cities because they cause lots of pollution**

**E: Cars cause lots of air pollution. This pollution is bad for everyone's health. It can cause problems like asthma.**

**E: For example, a little girl who lived by a really busy, really polluted road in London developed asthma, and doctors think it was because of all the traffic.**

Agree / Proposition  
This House would ban cars from  
big cities

What other points might the Proposition have?

Disagree / Opposition:  
This House would ban cars from  
big cities

The proposition argued that... we should ban cars because of the pollution they cause.

However, this is not convincing because... some cars cause less pollution than others, for example, electric cars. In the future, we might have cars that use renewable energy.

So I think... we should not ban cars: instead, we should make sure that they aren't causing pollution.

Disagree / Opposition:  
This House would ban cars from  
big cities

“The proposition argued that... [Point]”

“However, this is not convincing because...  
[refer to Explanation or Example]”

“So I think...”

You can use these sentence starters to begin forming your counterargument

Let's try it together: Find a partner.  
Choose who is the Proposition and the Opposition  
In your pair, pick two motions to discuss: Swap sides afterwards



This House believes  
students should be  
allowed to use  
phones at break  
time.

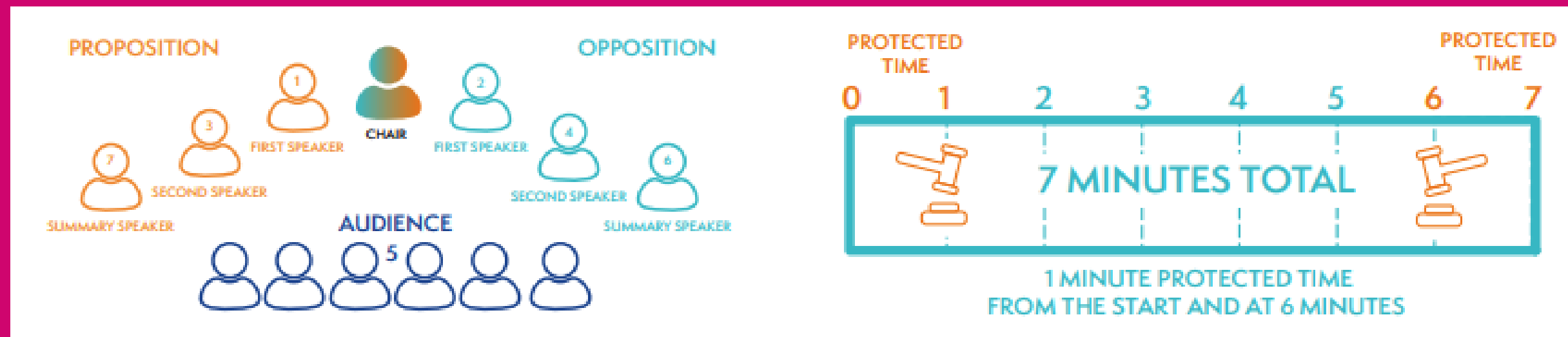
This House  
believes students  
should have  
homework only 3  
days a week

This House  
believes the  
school day  
should start  
later.

Hint:

“The proposition argued that... [Point]”  
“However, this is not convincing because...”  
“So I think...”

## Structure of a Mace-style debate (the ESU Schools' Mace debating competition format).



In Mace-style debating, each team usually has 3 speakers:

- 1st speaker
- 2nd speaker
- Summary speaker

### 1st speaker

- Opens the case
- Explains the team's position
- Give definitions
- Gives the first main argument

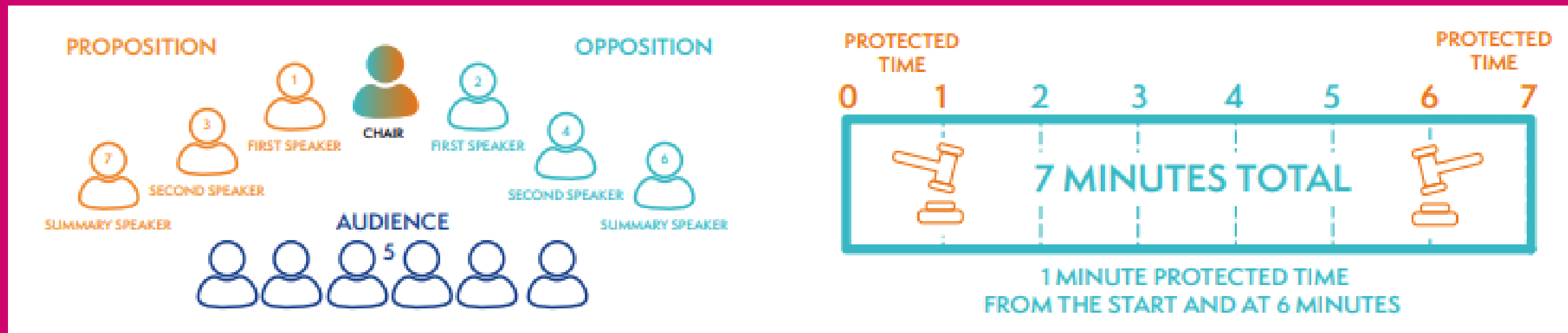
### 2nd speaker

- Develops the case
- Address the points the other side has made
- Gives more rebuttal

### Summary speaker

- Explains the key clash in the debate
- Compares both sides
- Addresses questions from the floor

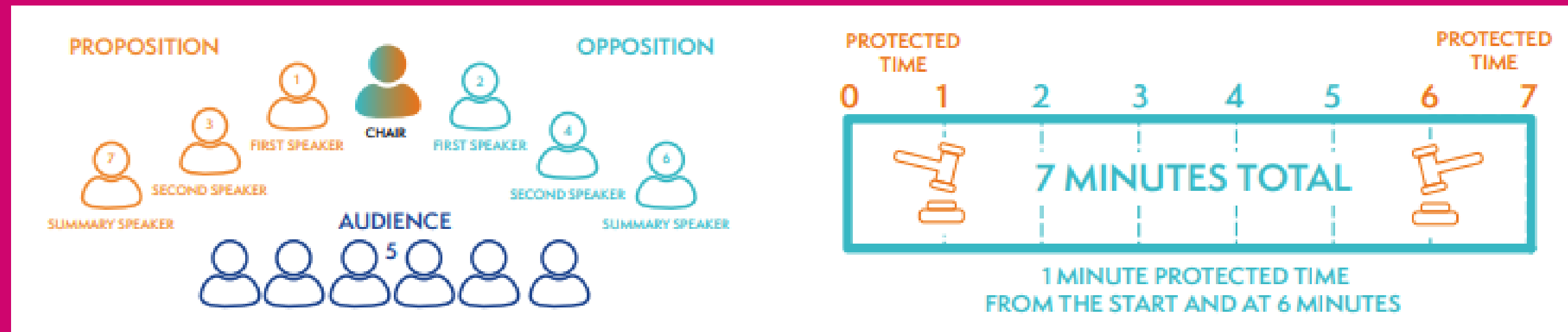
## Structure of a Mace Style debate



### Order of the debate

- 1st Proposition
- 1st Opposition
- 2nd Proposition
- 2nd Opposition
- Summary Proposition
- Summary Opposition

## Structure of a Mace Style debate



We will not have time to conduct a full debate, but we can do a shortened mini-mace to get a feel of the structure

## Structure of a Mace Style debate

Which role seems hardest? Why do you think that?





Complete one sentence:

- A motion is...
  - Proposition means...
  - Opposition means...
  - The hardest role in Mace is...
  - One good way to disagree is...
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