OCTOBER 26TH 2017 - INDIA TODAY DEBATE

VASANT VALLEY TODAY // PAGE

The Pasant Valley School Debate for the India Today Cup DEAR DEBATERS,

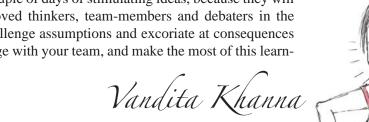
Debating is intricately woven into my academic journey for allowing me to create experiences that have allowed me to grow exponentially as a student. It has given me the opportunity to

challenge my own assumptions, spontaneously engage with nuances of counter-arguments, and hone skills of critical thinking and interaction.

The Vasant Valley School Debate for the India Today Cup has been one of my fondest memories of debating in school, because it captures all of the above, and more. It gives students from diverse backgrounds, who share a similar intellectual passion, a formal forum to channel their relentless need to argue by constantly reminding them that their opinion matters. Most importantly, the India Today Debate is a safe space for debaters to push their horizons with thought-provoking motions and learn valuable lessons in substance and form from a team of adjudicators whose reputation far precedes them.

My only advice for debaters this year will be that they truly immerse themselves in an intellectually rigorous couple of days of stimulating ideas, because they will undoubtedly emerge as improved thinkers, team-members and debaters in the end. Deconstruct motions, challenge assumptions and excoriate at consequences of arguments, constantly engage with your team, and make the most of this learning experience. Best of luck!

> **ALUMNI OF VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL MEMBER OF THE VASANT VALLEY DEBATE TEAM 2012**





TERMS DEBATORS OVERUSE

Debate clichés/classic terminology, whatever name you may give it, is something that most debaters closely identify with no matter where they come from. Whether it is something we've picked up from watching other debates, more than often in an attempt to imitate our seniors or even taken as inspiration from our own peers, each debater has that one phrase/set of phrases that he/she is bound to use in each and every speech. We've also had our fair share of criticism with people telling us that 'you say this too much', or even 'trying flinging this word around a little less', and even though we nod our heads every single time, we know that we will not stop. In light of this here are the top 8 words/ phrases that debaters over-use:

'Ladies and Gentlemen' (we know that we don't have to say this every time we begin a new argument, but we do anyway!)

'Essentially' (every sentence has to end with this word)

'Their argument is very 'problematic'' (and then we proceed to tell you why...)

What side opposition has presented to you in a 'problem-solution mismatch" (really? Every time?)

'Side opposition/proposition has clearly failed to prove their burden!' (we on the other hand are right every time)

'Madam Speaker'

'Hear, Hear' (sir, you are not in the House of Commons)

And that is why; we have clearly won this debate! *furious table tapping from fellow teammates*

(Note: Each of these is more than often accompanied by rapid hand movements)







FOR

INDIA TODA) DEBATE CUP

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THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

Sanskriti School

TH(being India) will make fines proportional to wealth for civil ofences. SPRINGDALES PUSA ROAD V/S SANSKRITI SCHOOL



PROPOSITION

"A Dalit rapist should be given lower punish 'If the proportional of rich and poor and equal ment than an individual from other castes as the then you are surely not aware of your facts." have faced discrimination for over a century.

A comparison between the have and the have nots were made shedding light on how various factors in society such as caste, gender and income play a major role. An example of Salman Khan and Subroto Roy were given in order to showcase how high fines were payed for the actions committed while on the other hand a poor individual would not be able to pay that similar fine. Weaker sections should be given lower fines as they have been discriminated for a long period of time.

In a democratic society equality should be present in all spheres including having a feasible amount for a crime committed by the rich or the poor. Magnitude of the fine should be determined by the gravity of the crime rather than the income earned by an individual. No factors should influence the decision of the fine to be payed by the victim.

OPPOSITION

"There is a division between responsible and

irresponsible media.

Side opposition's three main con-

structive were that first, current laws

are sufficient and serve their purpose

and that we should have faith in our

institutions. However, side proposi-

tion rebutted this by the flaws in in-

stitutions and the fact that decisions

take a lot of time. The opposition

then talked about the fact that me-

dia is simply doing its job. they also

spoke about how public figures are

only popular and recognised de to

the buzz that they create in media.

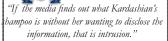
OPPOSITION

After a close battle, the Sanskriti School emerged victorious.

This house believes that media should be prevented by law from intruding into the lives of public figures

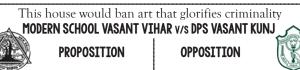


NEERJA MODI SCHOOL V/S DPS RK PURAM PROPOSITION



Side government came and talked about the Right to Privacy and told us about how it is important for an individual's emotional security. Side opposition, however, argued that media brought forward several issues such as the emails sent by Hillary Clinton to the public eye which would otherwise cause more harm than good. They told us that it is not necessary for a public figure to disclose any personal information and that they are, in no way, entitled to share things they do not want to. They also spoke about how this sensationalisation by the only profits the media and no one else.

After a close battle, the Neerja Modi School emerged victorious.



"Art is fluid and it influences the mindset of the society.'

Side proposition presented extremely interesting points. They said that the idea of banning art may seem absurd at first, but something which encourages people to live in some sort of dream world where they're not aware of the fact that their actions have consequences should be banned. They rebutted the opposition's points by asking that in today's world, shouldn't the focus be on cutting down criminality as much as we can?

"Right of self-determination should be available to all "

Side opposition asserted that in today's world, art forms, like movies are mainly produced to earn profit. They claimed it would be purely idiotic to ban such movies since there is no point in creating movies which don't match what the audience wants to see. They rebutted the proposition's points by saying the proposition only asserted that art influenced the thoughts of people, but that they failed to understand the purpose of art.

After a close battle, the DPS Vasant Kunj emerged victorious.



NEW ERA PUBLIC SCHOOL V/S DOON SCHOOL OPPOSITION

"Side opposition has clearly supported lawlessness throughout their argument"

Beginning with a strong start, the proposition began their constructive points. They believed that the youth is impressionable, so glorifying these art forms could have a negative impact on them. The exposure to this art could have psychological effects, too. The speakers also mentioned that every right that people have, has reasonable restrictions.

"Side proposition would not engage with the idea of criminalisation and murder

Side opposition immediately dived into rebutting their arguments, by calling them vague, subjective and generalised. They believed that interpretation of art is based on others' interpretation. The opposition argued that people have freedom of expression, and art can't be banned based on one individual's interpretation.

After a close battle, the Doon School emerged victorious.

TH(being India) will make fines proportional to wealth for civil ofences 🌜 STEP BY STEP V/S THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL MOULSARI **OPPOSITION** PROPOSITION STEP3 STEP

'Justice theory in India should act as a deterrent rather always being a punitive measure" They began by clarifying that the role of the fine would be to produce revenue for state and further discourage people from committing the crime in the first place. They stated that due to inequalities which existed in the realms of society, a culture of entitlement arose wherein a certain class of people are not taking the judicial system seriously. Because of this, the burden unfairly fell upon the poor. Refuting the arguments brought out by side opposition - contrary to fines, jail time had equal impact on the individual and an equal disincentive because of which this principle could not be applied to the criminal system.

Essentially what they are saying is that rich people should not be rich"

Fought their debate on the fact that everyone is equal before the law due to which more emphasis should be put on the nature, type and intention of the crime rather than financial status of the person committing the crime. They stated that an indivual's monetary status did not have a direct relation with the crime. Added that the victim was not the state but actually an individual thus, there shouldn't be any disparity of justice given to individual depending on whether the perpetrator was rich or not. They concluded that a policy also had practical ramifications such as giving people an incentive to have black money.

After a close battle, the Shri Ram School emerged victorious.

This house believes that media should be prevented by law from intruding into the lives of public figures TAGORE INTERNATIONAL V/S AIR FORCE GOLDEN JUBILEE INSTITUTE

After a close battle, the Tagore International School emerged victorious



'If Shah Rukh Khan wants to sit at home and smoke, it's up to him, the media should not be able to release this information to the masses."

The side proposition stood for prohibiting the media from intruding into the private lives of public figures. They said that there was a huge difference between a person's public and private lives, and if a figure does not want the public to find out something about him, it is his private life, and the media should not be able to release this information to the masses. The media also negatively affects the lives of the friends and family of these figures, and these people do not choose to be under the spotlight constantly.

"These people have chosen the life of a public figure; they have chosen this life for themselves.

OPPOSITION

The side opposition said that public figures have chosen a life open to the public. They argued that a view into the private lives of these public figures is necessary to know how capable or trustworthy these people are, and that instead of completely preventing the media from releasing information about private lives to the masses, we should instead strengthen criminal laws to prevent illegal breaching of the right to privacy.



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Anti-heroes will lead to a detrimental society"

Scindia School, Gwalior spoke as

side Government and said that the

ideology behind anti hero culture

is unjustified. Achieving your goal

by any means, even if it breaks so-

cial norms or even if it is illegal will

lead to complete anarchy and chaos.

They said that anti-heroes lead to

a detrimental society as society is

influenced to breach social norms.

and break laws because anti-heroes

become an idol of a sort. They re-

butted side Opposition by saying

there will be no greater good to look

forward to if the wrong means are

being used.

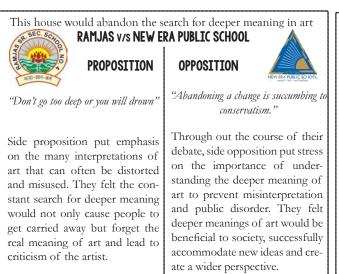


OPPOSITION

"Nobody is either a complete hero or villain. They act within the broad spectrum of grey area between villain and hero'

Sardar Patel Vidyalaya spoke as side Opposition and their argument was essentially about how an anti-hero does use questionable means, but the motive is ultimately the greater good. Coming of anti-hero culture - there is a greater good. They said they don't regret the rise of anti-heroes as sometimes some sort of small sacrifice is required in order to achieve the greater good. They rebutted the Proposition by saying that anti-heroes don't always lead to chaos, in 1947, it lead to our independence

After a close battle, the Sardar Patel Vidyalaya emerged victorious.



After a close battle, the New Era Public School emerged victorious.

"This house (left) would actively stop romanticising the 'Revolution'" THE CATHEDRAL AND JOHN CONNON SCHOOL v/s AIR FORCE GOLDEN JUBILEE INSTITUTE

OPPOSITION

"Romanticisation does not hide the

reality of the revolution but actually

portrays the beauty of it"

They put forward valid points about

how romanticising is essential in build-

ing a utopian society and that if that

aspect is lost, the drive of the people to

bring about a change will also be lost.

They said that romanticisation is im-

portant so that the unity of the people

can be achieved. The emphasised on the

fact that it brings out hope and that we

can only aspire to achieve when we have

been given reason to aspire. They also

rebutted the points of the opposition

saying that without the correct propa-

ganda and encouragement of the revo-

PROPOSITION



"In order to solve the problem, we need to know what the problem is you need to

convert an effective desire into a result" They made points about romanticisation of the revolution, saying that by doing so you are creating extremists who don't realise the consequences and are unable to actualise the war. For a revolution to take place, realism is needed and people cannot be betrayed into disregarding the negative impacts by romanticisation. With the concept of a utopian society and idealism the leaders will get complacent and the revolution will fail before it even starts. They rebutted by saying that people should receive adequate information and that by saying that their duty is to encourage people, they would be implying that the people are

lution, it would not be possible to make it happen. not capable of making a decision. After a close battle, the Airforce Golden Jubilee Institute emerged

victorious

This house regrets the rise of the anti-hero. LA MARTINIERE GIRLS' COLLEGE V/S MODERN SCHOOL BARAKHAMBA

PROPOSITION "Anti-heroes always create more problems than they solve."

N-4-

Side proposition defined an anti-hero as someone who employs immoral means and methods to achieve a seemingly good, heroic goal. Using the examples of Bhagat Singh, Donald Trump and Robin Hood, they implied that these anti-heroes are not nearly as effective as true heroes, who use more conventional means to achieve their goals, and that "good" is subjective. They repeatedly stated their belief that these immoral actions have repercussions, and that the means do not justify the end.

"An anti-hero of yesterday is a hero today."

OPPOSITION

Side opposition, on the other hand, argued that the end does justify the means. Where public welfare is concerned, they believed that laws and morals should take a backseat when trying to achieve the greater good. They reiterated that current societal norms are flawed, which is why, according to these norms, anti-heroes are not widely accepted. However, once they achieve their goals and benefit the people, they win the favour of the masses, and are not considered anti-heroes anymore, but true heroes.

After a close battle, the Modern School Barakhamba emerged victorious.

This house regrets the rise of the anti-hero. ' DPS VASANT KUNJ v/s SHIV NADAR SCHOOL, GURGAON 👞 PROPOSITION

'In our school the ideal cool guy would be the savage that can beat up anyone" Proposition laid their case on the ideals of hero. They questioned the fact that if there is no assurance that the leader would not turn against you. They said that anti-hero personalities often deviate from their purpose. It is okay to rebellious and have a fresh perspective but all that does is put one more problem to worry about on the government. The idea of the anti-hero goes against the morals and the code of conduct society is based on.

OPPOSITION SHIV NAME SCHOOL 'How can you expect a hero to be imperfect if perfection is a myth"

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After a close battle, the Shiv Nadar School, Gurgaon emerged victorious.

This house would abandon the search for deeper meaning in art THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL ARAVALI V/S LA MARTINIERE COLLEGE



PROPOSITION

"There is a clear distinction between a personal search for deeper meaning and an academic search for deeper meaning."

The debaters from Shri Ram School, Aravali were for the motion, and stated that searching for a deeper meaning in art is futile. They elaborated on their argument saying that a person's curiosity is never satisfied and finding a deeper meaning is not productive. They expressed their views further by stating that by finding our own meanings in art we are devaluing the message that the artist is originally trying to send.

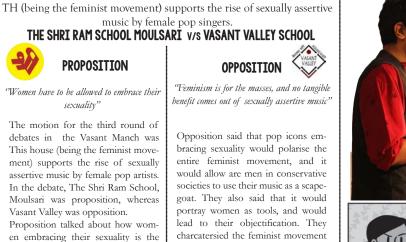


"Societv evolves, and we don't need to look at art now, but ten to fifteen years later, as an art and not a science."

The La Martiniere College, Lucknow team opposed the motion saying that the whole concept of art is to express one's emotions and for others to interpret a. They said that art is something that goes deeper than the surface. They stated that it is, in fact, productive as art is a subject that is studied and it becomes a platform where we learn to interpret as well as convey emotions.

After a close battle, the La Martiniere College emerged victorious.

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.....

en embracing their sexuality is the only way for women to achieve true equality with men. To also achieve true equality, they said that pop icons being sexual would normalise sex, so women will be on the same pedestal as men in that aspect.

and spoke of how changes will occur slowly with regard to bringing eqaulity between men and women.

After a close battle, the Shri Ram School, Moulsari emerged victorious.



STEP BY STEP V/S SISHYA SCHOOL **OPPOSITION** PROPOSITION

"Can the audience say something if the opposition says something that is factually incorrect" Proposition came up with a strong case by introducing the non-intervention policy of Indian state, and the lack of scope for improvement. They characterised women's liberation as absolute political, social and economic freedom that was strongly impeded by organised religion. They focused on the lack of legal redressal and increasing inefficiency in the system as well the immense moral pressure created by religion that prevented this absolute/true liberation. They substantiated their case with examples about triple talaq, land practices in India etc.

After a close battle, the Step By Step emerged victorious.

This house will ban art that glorifies war" LA MARTINIERE COLLEGE V/S SHIV NADAR SCHOOL, NOIDA



PROPOSITION "Restriction on freedom has to be done to

attain peace" Side proposition spoke as the government and proposed some strong points. They said that glorifying war instigates feelings of violence, glorifies the atrocities done by powerful figures in history and even gives rise to racism and discrimination. All of which encourages people to act out in a violent manner which leads to a loss of social unrest. They also spoke about how restriction on freedom must be placed in order to attain a peaceful and stable country, as well as the fact that when we glorify war we are indirectly glorifying death and suffering instead of glorifying martyrs.

After a close battle, the La Martiniere College emerged victorious.



"Women are reaching the same pedesta as men and will continue to rise 'step by step' "

The opposition argued that progress is inherent to people and hence is linked to religion. They stressed on the tangible change in the actions of religious leaders to make room for women's rights and liberation. They characterised religion as a source of strength for women. They gave examples of abolishment of sati, child marriage as well as of driving rights in Saudi Arabia. They chose to give real life examples to further build on their point.

OPPOSITION SHIV NADAR SCHOOL

"Art unites people"

Side opposition countered the first argument by saying that art based on war unites the people of a country and makes them feel feelings of patriotism. That showcasing war informs the people of a country about reality and is necessary as it builds hope in a person and inspires them. Not only is art based on war inspiring, it also provides an incentive to join the armed forces, and tells us the value of history and is a ray of hope. Last but not the least banning art based on war is an infringement on our fundamental laws, and should not be tolerated.



This house decries the glorification of strong female characters

SCINDIA SCHOOL V/S MAYO COLLEGE BOYS PROPOSITION

The proposition starts the debate for the third round by stating the definition of glorification and by shedding light on the problem of alienation as well as the high standards that are present in todays society. Strong female characters have started standing up for their rights and are being recognised world wide, but giving them the spotlight has more nagative sides then positive in todays world.

The opposition states that women should be recognised as they provide role models to the youth of the country as well as support the hope and future of empowerment.In historic times women have played a vital role through numerous sacrifices and continue this in todays day and age as well .Some examples that were mentioned were- Michelle Obama and Malala Yousafzai.

OPPOSITION

After a close battle, the Scindia emerged victorious.

This house (being the feminist movement) supports the rise sexually

assertive music by female pop singers MOTHERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL V/S VIVEK HIGH SCHOOL **OPPOSITION**

"Sexually assertive music provides validation for

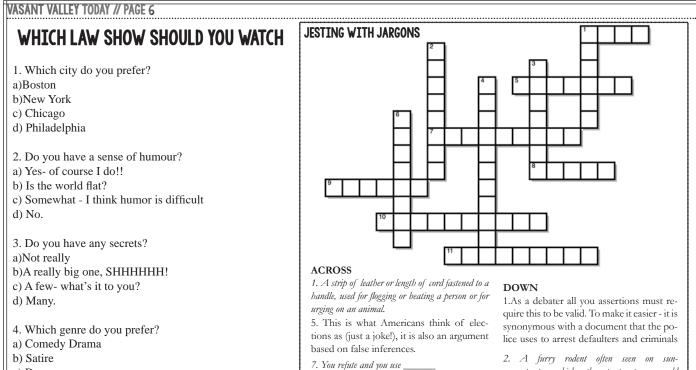
vulgarity" The Mothers International school sheds light on the fact that the feminist movement is presently at a point where a lot of change can happen. The feminist movement is not openly supported and their message about sexuality can be misinterpreted by people who want any validation to put down the movement. They rebutted the points of the proposition saying that even though women should be free to express but there should be some accountability to audience and children.



The Vivek High School presented valid points regarding the freedom of expression and the breaking of stereotypes regarding the feminist movement. Famous singers have a greater power to influence society and so can easily promote the idea of women feeling confident in their own skin. They help woman to project themselves out into the world and not feel inferior to men. They rebutted the points of the opposition by saving that the whole point of feminism is to challenge the norms of society and that it is important to remove social prejudice towards women who are proud of their sexuality.

After a close battle, the Vivek High School emerged victorious.





or cut steak.

debates

8. The closing team implicitly or explicitly

contradicts the opening team on the same side. You could also use it to spread butter

9. This is your strategic weight to carry as a debater

10. A large argument or set of smaller argu-

11. This is the opposite of twisted, though twist-

ed it seems when teams have the number of team

points equivalent to just getting seconds in all their

ments that support the case.

- c) Drama
- d) Mystery
- 5. Which area of law interests you the most?
- a) Civil
- b) Corporate
- c) Federal
- d) Criminal



If you got mostly A's, *you're Boston Legal*.

You believe the end always justifies the means. You believe in mixing work with pleasure. You believe intelligence more than

makes up for skewed morals.

If you got mostly B's, you're Suits.

You think a secret is worth keeping if it's for a good cause. You think winning is extremely important, but not if you lose yourself along the way. You trust your instincts, sometimes more-so the people around you.





If you got mostly C's, you're The Good Wife

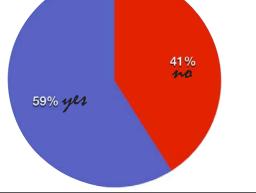
You have a strong moral compass and believe in justice. You are self-sufficient and don't depend on others to provide for you. You do not let public opinion affect your own.

If you got mostly D's, *you're How To Get Away With Murder*. You are wary of those around you, and your trust is hard to gain.

You internalise your problems, dealing with them later, in a more secluded environment. You get stressed easily, and occasionally take a break from your problems to let yourself rest and relax.







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Jay Jaganaath, Ananya Jain **With -** Dhruv Kumar, Nayna Puri, Asmita Shah, Vaanya Vasudeva, Sahir Singh

Editor- Zoya Siddiqi Hassan

 A furry rodent often seen on sunny streets, which the prop team could use to illegitimately restrict the motion

3. You offer points far too hastily in a disruptive manner. These are also buildings used for accommodation of the army

4. Unfortunately though they might not want to, this is the person who judges you

6. The Vasant Valley School plays this role while they hold the annual India Today Debate