CARSHALTON BOYS SPORTS COLLEGE

Excellence • Character • Aspiration

ORACY PROGRAMME

Debate Skills for Oracy — 12-Lesson Unit

Key Stage 3

YEAR 7

Tier 2 & Tier 3 Vocabulary Booklet

Academic Year 2026 – 2027

Name: _____ Class: _____

How to Use This Booklet

Tier 2 and Tier 3 Vocabulary

- Tier 2 words are powerful academic words used across all your subjects — words like justify, evaluate and credible. Mastering them improves your speaking and writing everywhere, not just in oracy lessons.
- Tier 3 words are the technical vocabulary of debate and oracy — words like motion, rebuttal and ethos. Using them accurately marks you out as an expert speaker.

Expected (E) and Aspirational (A) Words

- E (Expected): every pupil is expected to know, spell and use these words by the end of the unit. They form the core of your weekly Look–Cover–Write–Check homework.
- A (Aspirational): stretch words for those ready to go further. Using Aspirational words accurately in your speeches and feedback is one way to reach the top strands of the speaking rubric.

Look–Cover–Write–Check

- LOOK carefully at the word and its definition.
- COVER the definition.
- WRITE the definition from memory in the practice grid at the back of this booklet.
- CHECK against the booklet and correct any errors in green pen.

Vocabulary and PATHS

When your spoken performances are assessed, your teacher's PATHS feedback will often set a vocabulary target — for example, to use rebuttal and concede accurately in your next debate. Use this booklet to prepare your Student Response: find the words, learn them, and deploy them deliberately in your next performance.

Tier 2 — Academic Vocabulary

These words power persuasive talk in every subject. The final column shows each word in action — use these stems in your own speeches, feedback and reflections.

Word	E / A	Definition	Use it in your speaking
articulate	**E**	To express an idea clearly and fluently in words.	*"I will articulate my main point before giving my evidence."*
persuade	**E**	To make someone believe or agree with you through reasoning.	*"This statistic will persuade the audience because…"*
evidence	**E**	Facts or information used to prove that an argument is true.	*"The strongest evidence for this is…"*
justify	**E**	To give good reasons for a decision or claim.	*"I can justify this choice of evidence because…"*
relevant	**E**	Closely connected to the matter being discussed.	*"That point is not relevant to the motion because…"*
credible	**E**	Believable; able to be trusted.	*"This source is credible because the author is an expert."*
reliable	**E**	Consistently accurate and able to be trusted.	*"A reliable source would give the same facts every time."*
challenge	**E**	To question or disagree with an idea respectfully.	*"I would like to challenge that point because…"*
concede	**A**	To admit that part of the other side's argument is fair.	*"I concede that this is true; however…"*
counter	**E**	To respond to an argument with an opposing one.	*"To counter that argument, I would say…"*
anticipate	**A**	To predict what will happen or be said, and prepare for it.	*"I anticipate the opposition will argue that…"*
evaluate	**E**	To judge the strengths and weaknesses of something.	*"When I evaluate this source, I notice…"*
bias	**E**	Unfairly favouring one side over another.	*"This article shows bias because it only gives one view."*
coherent	**A**	Logical, clear and well-organised.	*"A coherent argument moves step by step to a conclusion."*
emphasise	**E**	To give special importance to a point when speaking.	*"I will slow down to emphasise my key statistic."*
judicious	**A**	Showing careful, sensible judgement — especially in word choice.	*"A judicious speaker chooses words that fit the audience."*
respectful	**E**	Showing consideration for others, even in disagreement.	*"A respectful challenge attacks the idea, not the person."*
reflect	**E**	To think carefully about your own performance and progress.	*"When I reflect on my baseline talk, I can see that…"*

Tier 3 — The Vocabulary of Debate and Oracy

Organised in the order you will meet the words across the twelve lessons. Aspirational words are highlighted in gold in the E/A column.

The Language of Debate (Lessons 1–2)		
Word	**E / A**	**Definition**
oracy	**E**	The ability to express yourself fluently in speech, and to listen well — speaking and listening as skills to be learned.
debate	**E**	A structured argument in which two sides speak for and against a motion, following agreed rules.
motion	**E**	The statement being debated, e.g. "This house believes that school uniform should be abolished."
proposition	**E**	The side of the debate that argues for the motion.
opposition	**E**	The side of the debate that argues against the motion.
formal debate	**E**	A debate with fixed rules, roles, timings and etiquette (e.g. parliamentary style).
informal debate	**E**	A looser discussion of opposing views without fixed rules or roles.
chairperson	**A**	The person who runs the debate: introduces speakers, keeps time and maintains order.
the floor	**A**	The audience of a debate, who may ask questions or vote at the end.
etiquette	**A**	The accepted code of polite behaviour in a formal setting such as a debate.
baseline	**E**	Your starting point — the Lesson 1 talk against which your progress is measured.
rubric	**E**	The grid of criteria used to assess a spoken performance.

Building and Evidencing an Argument (Lessons 3–6)		
Word	**E / A**	**Definition**
rhetoric	**E**	The art of speaking or writing persuasively.
rhetorical device	**E**	A technique used to persuade, e.g. a rhetorical question, repetition or the rule of three.
ethos	**E**	Persuading through character and credibility — showing you can be trusted (Aristotle).
pathos	**E**	Persuading through emotion — making the audience feel something (Aristotle).
logos	**E**	Persuading through logic and evidence — facts, statistics and reasoning (Aristotle).
counter-argument	**E**	The argument the other side is likely to make against your point.
rebuttal	**E**	A response that shows why a counter-argument is wrong or weak.
fact	**E**	A statement that can be proved true.
opinion	**E**	A personal view or belief that cannot be proved.
statistic	**E**	A fact expressed as a number, often from research or a survey.
source	**E**	Where a piece of evidence comes from, e.g. a report, website or expert.
reliability	**E**	How far a source can be trusted to be accurate and unbiased.
anecdote	**A**	A short personal story used to illustrate or support a point.

concession	**A**	Accepting part of the other side's argument before answering it — a mark of a strong debater.

Delivery and Performance (Lessons 7–8)		
Word	**E / A**	**Definition**
pitch	**E**	How high or low your voice is when speaking.
pace	**E**	The speed at which you speak.
tone	**E**	The feeling or attitude your voice communicates, e.g. serious, passionate, calm.
body language	**E**	Communication through posture, gesture and movement.
eye contact	**E**	Looking directly at your audience to hold their attention.
projection	**A**	Making your voice carry clearly to the whole room without shouting.
gesture	**E**	A deliberate hand or body movement used to support a point.
pause	**E**	A deliberate silence used for emphasis or to let a point land.
sentence starter	**E**	A ready-made opening that helps structure a spoken point, e.g. “My first argument is…”

Live Debate and Responsiveness (Lessons 9–12)		
Word	**E / A**	**Definition**
fishbowl debate	**E**	A low-stakes debate format: a small group debates in the middle while observers watch, give feedback and then swap in.
observer	**E**	A pupil with a focused watching role in a fishbowl, giving feedback on one specific skill.
active listening	**E**	Listening in order to understand and respond — shown through eye contact, notes and building on what was said.
paraphrase	**A**	Restating someone else's point in your own words to show you have understood it.
curveball question	**E**	An unexpected question designed to test how well you think on your feet.
point of information	**A**	A short question or challenge offered to a speaker during a formal debate.
summary speech	**A**	The final speech for each side, drawing together its strongest arguments.
adjudication	**A**	The judging of a debate against agreed criteria, e.g. using the Debate Score Sheet.
peer feedback	**E**	Structured comments from a fellow pupil against the shared rubric.
self-assessment	**E**	Judging your own performance honestly against the rubric.
target	**E**	The one specific improvement you commit to making in your next performance.

Look–Cover–Write–Check — Practice Grids

Choose words from this booklet (your teacher may direct you to a section). Write the definition from memory, tick if correct, and correct any errors in green pen.

Practice Grid 1 Date: _____

Word	Definition from memory	✓/ ✗	Green pen correction

Practice Grid 2 Date: _____

Word	Definition from memory	✓/ ✗	Green pen correction

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