



Quote from H.E. Shamma Al Mazrui, UAE Minister of State for Youth Affairs

“Young people are the largest demographic in the country and as such, represent the future of our great nation. We believe that it is essential to provide them with the attributes required to analyze ideas through reasoned argument in a public forum – something that is the cornerstone of an open and transparent society. Our Youth Debate programme has been formulated to equip young people with the skills they need to critically evaluate propositions through cogent and carefully constructed discussions and to test hypotheses through dialogue,” said H.E. Shamma Al Mazrui, UAE Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

“Debating enables a person to take a premise, support it with evidence and understand its counter-arguments. The format of our Youth Debate programme sees two teams of up to three young people formally debate a proposition centred on an issue that is particularly pertinent to the region, with the topic debated in 45-minute segments. A panel of three judges who are experts in the subject being debated, along with the audience members, vote for the team they feel has presented the most compelling case. Ultimately everyone – team members, the audience and even the judges - leaves smarter and more connected,” H.E. Al Mazrui added.

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