Critical Psychiatry Debates Feedback Forms: Comment Extraction V2

Previous Debate Experience

Debate societies and with friends
I have not done any debates since secondary school
Debating in school
Global health iBSc
English clubs
Debating society at school
Not really, bar school
MUN at school

Change in Confidence

Believed in my argument and ability to convince the room, but still looks of disapproval
Informative, learnt a lot of points for both sides of the argument
Exposure to argument
Public speaking is a rare opportunity.
Personality conflict – public speaking and debates tend to make me very nervous and frustrated that I didn’t speak the way I wanted to or make the points I wanted to make
Presentation practice is always good
I think I’ve never particularly enjoyed public speaking and doing it I am always anxious so didn’t really make it better
Nice to have an environment where everyone listens and accepts you
It really did which was very unexpected, I really enjoyed it

Change in Presentation Style

Better to have notes to refer to
It helped me practice how to organise my thoughts
Speaking more slowly and think before making my points
Many presentations in the past – have already built my presentation style
Already confident with presentations
Yes, I tried to make eye contact and easy language.

Change in Coping with Conflict

Highlighted the importance of condensing the counter-argument before the debate
Improved rapport
I often debate things with friends/colleagues through discussion – a one-off experience does not affect my confidence to speak up when it actually matters
No conflict
I understand how it aims to make you consider the content of what someone says as opposed to taking things personally
**Change in Thinking Critically**

Highlighted the importance of condensing the counter-argument before the debate
I already knew to consider both sides
Allowed to realise other side of argument through discussion
It prompted me to think from more than 1 perspective
Helped analyse previously held beliefs more critically
Have debated before
There is no right or wrong and new ideas were expressed – more insight
Already had quite a lot of practice and experience with critical thinking
This was affected the most as I may be able to have an opinion and yet be able to vote for the opposite based on the arguments
Yes, engaged the mind

**Change in Views of Psychiatry**

Realised I must consider both sides of the argument, nothing is black and white especially in psychiatry
Both arguments have a background which need to be taken into account
I feel that I did not really prepare for this session, so only read slightly around the topic as I was also trying to study
Clinical placement most important for me
I have always had a positive view of psychiatry
Makes me reflect on how there is no right answer in psychiatry
I understand how there is no right or wrong answer and psychiatry is not black and white
We discussed topics in depth
Helped to critically think about different aspects in psychiatry
I think psychiatry does bring up a lot more ethical issues which is extremely helpful to discuss

**Change in Choosing Psychiatry**

The placement is more influential when considering psychiatry as a specialty
I have already been considering psychiatry
Psychiatry is very interesting and challenging
I don’t think the ethics/moral side of it is for me
I am set on my path
More likely because of the challenges of it

**The Experience of Learning via Debate**

Engaging way of learning information
It is interesting and more engaging when actively participating in a group
It was interesting to just sit listening to lectures
Fun but not good for exams
Don’t get a lot of other activities like this in medicine
Excellent. Having done a prior degree, I was used to my own opinion being valued – in medicine from year 1 this is completely shut down. We need to be critical of medicine and I think it’s excellent for learning and critical thinking.

Stressful to prepare for

**Suggestions to Improve Debates**

Do it earlier in placement
Have it early on cos we have an exam next week which caused us to prioritise that more
Maybe would be better as an open discussion
Earlier in the placement
I feel it could have been done earlier
Not have it around exams
Reduce anxiety for students by explaining prior that this is informal. Move to a time in the block not near exams
Nil
Possibly more time to debate after arguments have been made
Maybe earlier in placements? Very stressed with exam next week
I think it would be more enjoyable if it was in the first weeks as opposed to this close to ICA
Closer location
Do more – 1 a week?
Love it – don’t do near exams
Move to a time in the block not near exams.

**More Debates in MBBS?**

Helps to think outside the box. Learn how the opposite party derived their point
I think it is helpful in terms of engagement and learning from colleagues
Whilst is interesting, I feel there is already a lot of pressure and we don’t have time
Medical school is arbitrary and about passing exams where there are tick box right answers so debating both sides of a question doesn’t help this
Interesting topics to debate on
No other use of debate in MBBS thus far, is enjoyable
It helps you think and link ideas
It’s a good mixture to promote discussion, but may not benefit everyone
Maybe! If it is not close to exam and there is knowledge value
I learnt about topics I did not know about
100% A very effective tool for learning
’It is not well for exams but there is knowledge value
Not good for examinable content
Vital to do, but may need to be modified for people with anxiety or who hate public speaking
But not near exams

**List 3 Future Debate Topics**

Racism
Travelling
Hobbies vs no free time
Words like “crazy, mental” perpetuate bad stereotypes of the mentally ill
It takes generations for the stigma of asylums to fade
Understanding of ethics is more important in the formation of a good doctor than physiology
The stigma of mental health is inherent and will never be removed
Inpatient admission for psychiatry does nothing to help patients