**Template for Opening speech for Proposition**

Timing: 7 minutes plus 30 sec grace

Guide: 100 words ≈ 1 minute

**Toastmaster introduction:** [address the chairman plus the people in the “room”, for example: Thank you Mr / Madame debate chair, fellow debaters, Toastmasters and most welcome guests, good evening]

**General introduction:** [Put people in the picture with paragraph]

Example: Tonight we are debating the motion This house would ban dog-ownership in cities. We know from recent news reports that dogs in cities have been involved with acts of violence, attacks on children and that they foul public spaces. But before I present the Proposition’s case, allow me to explain how we define the motion:

**Definitions:**

Key terms [dictionary definitions or how you will be using the key terms in the motion]

Example:

With “dog” we understand the four legged animal that is generally understood by this term.

With cities we mean any urban areas with a population of more than 30 000 people,

with “ownership” we mean both to literally own, but also to keep, borrow, care for or in any way have a dog under one’s responsibility,

and with “ban” we mean that it is illegal to keep a dog without a permit from the government.

**Proposition’s understanding of the motion (what we are proposing):**

[This is the MOST IMPORTANT aspect of speaker 1’s contribution. By clearly limiting and deciding what the debate is about, you make the burden of proof lighter for you and you limit the scope of the Opposition]

Example: The motion is: This house would ban dog-ownership in cities. We interpret this motion to mean that in urban centres of more than 30 000 inhabitants, it will be illegal to own or have one or more dogs without a permit from the government, and we propose that no permit would be issues unless the person applying had undergone training in dog-keeping and had some need to have a dog.

Introduce the premises:

[This is the second most important aspect of the opening speaker’s contribution. Here you must try to present the premises and warrants for them that your team agreed upon. Depending on how many there are, you may not have time to go deeply into all of them. This must be agreed between you and the second speaker for the Proposition. One way of doing it is to present all 3, then explain no. 1 in depth, no.2 if you get time, leaving no. 3 for speaker 2.]

PREMISE 1:

PREMISE 2:

PREMISE 3:

PREMISE 4:

[There is no need for 4, 3 is good, even 2 can suffice, depending on the issue]

**Gatekeeping point**: [In a debate the **Proposition** has the burden of proof. Defining the motion, as above, is one way of gatekeeping, but it can also be useful to remind the audience what the Opposition must demonstrate in order to defeat the motion, if you get time]

Example: To defeat this motion, the Opposition must demonstrate that … [work out with your team and the team coach what the Opposition needs to show to undermine the Opp’s case]

**Speech 1 conclusion:**

[Repeat definition of the motion, the premises and use an easy to remember slogan, if you can find a good one]