

Question:

You are a member of your school's debating team. Next week is the inter-school semi-finals and you need to prepare your speech. The motion is "Harsher sentences should be given to people found guilty of drink-driving."

Prepare your debate speech for this motion, making sure you clearly state your point of view.

Debate Speech

By Gahatraj Smarika (5B)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, honorable judges, fellow students, and esteemed opponents,

Today, I stand firmly in support of the motion: "Harsher sentences should be given to people found guilty of drink-driving."

First and foremost, drink-driving is an extremely reckless and dangerous act that imperils not only the life of the driver but also the lives of innocent pedestrians and other motorists. It is our collective responsibility to abide by the laws established by our government, designed to safeguard public safety. Each year, thousands suffer injuries or lose their lives due to accidents caused by intoxicated drivers, leaving families shattered and communities grieving. Such a grave offence cannot be met with leniency; it demands a firm and unequivocal response.

By enforcing harsher sentences, we send an unequivocal message that drink-driving is utterly unacceptable within our society. Stricter penalties serve as a powerful deterrent, reminding individuals of the severe consequences that follow such irresponsible behavior. Current punishments often fail to impress upon offenders the gravity of their actions or encourage genuine reform. Harsher sentences not only hold offenders accountable but also provide a just response that reflects the seriousness of their crime.

Furthermore, imposing more severe penalties fosters a culture of responsibility and respect for the law. When individuals are aware that their actions carry significant repercussions, they are more likely to make wiser decisions, such as arranging alternative transportation or abstaining from alcohol if they plan to drive. This shift in mindset can substantially reduce the incidence of drink-driving, leading to fewer accidents and safer communities. Ultimately, stricter sentencing contributes to a more conscientious society where the value of human life is upheld.

Additionally, harsher punishments deliver justice to victims and their families, who often endure immense suffering due to the negligence of others. Justice is the cornerstone of any civilized society, and it demands that those who endanger lives be held fully responsible for their actions. Aligning our legal system with societal values reinforces the principle that reckless behavior resulting in harm will not be tolerated. Accountability is not merely punitive; it is essential for healing and maintaining public trust.

In essence, we must reflect on the kind of society we aspire to create: one that excuses careless conduct or one that stands resolutely to protect its citizens and uphold justice. Harsher sentences for drink-driving offenders are indispensable—not only to save lives but also to nurture a culture of accountability and respect for the law.

Thank you.