**MMI Video Feedback: Debate Station**

In the Centre for Career Action we have done extensive research on the interview process for graduate and professional schools and have compiled feedback notes for this scenario. Refer to the tips, models, website links, and book resources in CareerHub to prepare for your interview.

This station assesses how you interact with others (especially someone who does not share your opinion). These candidates started with a conversation to outline how they would go about the debate. They took the first minute to decide on who would go first, and how each side would present their arguments. Because they had an organized plan, it set the tone for the rest of the debate – a very structured, organized, and calm conversation. This was excellent, and we highly recommend a similar approach!

Although structure and logical arguments are good, the purpose is less about “winning” the debate, and more about showing that you can think critically about what is being presented, and respectfully interact well with the other candidate. Both applicants provided solid arguments from multiple perspectives, and the strongest arguments will be like this: based on facts or evidence instead of opinion. If possible, an applicant could mention the sources that they were getting their information from like the news, an article they read online, or a course they took, as it could add to their argument.

The PESTLE model can be used to explore the pros or cons from a political, economic, social, technological, legal and ethical perspective if relevant as demonstrated by these candidates. If you would have preferred to argue the side opposite to what you are assigned, then use this to your advantage. Prepare counterarguments based on what you would have stated for the other side.

As mentioned in their feedback to one another, they were very constructive and respectful. Notice how the first candidate said “It would have been great if …”; they didn’t make a list of “You should have said and done this…”. You are being evaluated on how you give feedback, so make sure you are polite and not aggressive when considering the other candidate. In the evaluation you could focus on pace, and tone, eye contact, terminology and language used, the order of the arguments etc. Remember to always focus on the issue and not the person.

If you have long hair, make sure that it is pulled back, away from your eyes. It can be a more professional look to wear your hair up, or back, and also will prevent the distraction of your hair constantly falling in your eyes (like in this video).

**It’s important to note that there is not one right answer to this question. Many aspects of an MMI interview are evaluated. We shared some things that we saw this candidate do that would be considered an excellent demonstration of the soft skills interviewers are looking for, as well as a few areas that could use improvement.**