

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 800 13 Powerful Quotations About Arguments

Yesterday, we talked about the futility of trying hard to win arguments. Today, let's look to see what some notable folks have had to say on that subject. I'm Jerry Roberts and let the quotations flow about arguing, next on The Extra Point.

The topic is arguments, and I went looking for insight, and wisdom, and how notable people have felt about getting into arguments. I've got 13, and here we go.

1. Benjamin Franklin said: "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." Trying to force your opinion down somebody's throat changes nothing.

2. Similar. A Cuban proverb reads: "A wise man wastes no time on discussion with the man who has made up his mind.: If someone's mind is clearly closed, is it worth your time to try to change it?"

3. Not exactly the same but worth noting, this from English novelist E. M. Forster: "I am not interested in anyone's ideas if they are not interested in mine." If you want someone to consider what you're presenting, be open to their positions as you would have them be open to yours.

4. American writer Alice Duer Miller, said: "A sure way of causing an argument is to tell people they are wrong." You can find different ways of delivering that point. If you tell them they're wrong, a wall goes up immediately and your conversation will go nowhere.

5. From Muhammad Ali. "It is always better to be tolerant and forgiving, rather than proud and stubborn."

6. French philosopher Joseph Joubert wrote, "The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress." This gets back to yesterday's Extra Point. Are you trying to

accomplish worthwhile, or just beat the other person.

7. Chicago-based journalist and syndicated columnist, Sydney J. Harris, said this and it's a critical step if you want to turn an adversary into an advocate: "The most important thing in an argument, next to being right, is to leave an escape hatch for your opponent, so that he can gracefully swing over to your side without too much apparent loss of face."

8. Author, speaker, and behavioral scientist Steve Maraboli added this, and it's a beauty: "The volume of your voice does not increase the validity of your argument." So many people yell and bark, stomp, and flail their arms around — as if any of that is going to make their points more convincing.

The rest of these are anonymous.

9. "Arguments drag out because one is too stubborn to forgive and the other is too proud to apologize." Pride, ego, attitude. How many lives and careers get trashed because of those things?

10. "To settle an argument, think about what is right — not who is right." Do the right thing for the right reasons. It's hard to go wrong when you do.

11. "Most couples have not had hundreds of arguments; they have had the same argument hundreds of times." Wow. Anybody want to raise their hand and be a witness for that one?

12. "The more arguments you win, the fewer friends you have." Be careful.

(Con't.)

13. Finally, this anonymous gem. If you forget all the rest of these, remembering this one will serve you well for your entire life. Ready? “You don't have to attend every argument you are invited to.”

Every worker needs to hear it.

Every kid needs to hear it.

“You don't have to attend every argument you are invited to.”

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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