

TISB DEBATE



2024

February 17th and 18th, 2024

WSDC FORMAT



WELCOME TO TISB DEBATE '24

WE ADVISE YOU TO GO THROUGH THESE DETAILS THOROUGHLY



**WSDC IS THE WORLD'S PREMIER
YOUTH DEBATE COMPETITION.
TISB DEBATE WILL FOLLOW THE
FORMAT OF WSDC WITH SOME
MODIFICATIONS**

**PLEASE FIND THE DETAILS OF
THE BASIC FORMAT, SPEAKER
ROLES, AND OTHER
INFORMATION BELOW**





GENERAL INFO

- 3 speakers per team.
- Each person speaks for 6 minutes.
- No reply speeches.
- There will be 3 prepared rounds and 2 impromptu rounds.
- The amount of time given to prepare for impromptu rounds will be 45 minutes.

ORDER OF SPEAKERS

The debate follows a simple order:

1. Proposition First Speaker
2. Opposition First Speaker
3. Proposition Second Speaker
4. Opposition Second Speaker
5. Proposition Third Speaker
6. Opposition Third Speaker

ABBREVIATIONS/VOCABULARY GUIDE

THBT: THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT

- Truth debate.
- No need to propose a specific course of action but instead merely to argue the truth or falsity of a given statement.

Eg: THBT alcohol should be banned.

THW: THIS HOUSE WOULD

- Used for policy debates.
- Simply means that Proposition supports the implementation of (a) policy(/ies) to achieve a particular aim.

Eg: THW make all drugs illegal.





POINT OF INFORMATION (POI)

During the first two main speeches of each team, speakers from the opposing team may offer (i.e request) a “Point of Information” (POI) anytime after the **first** minute and before the **sixth** minute of the speech (these timings will be indicated by a signal from the judging panel).

A POI is a short (up to 15 seconds) interjection in which one of the three members of the opposing team speaking in that debate can ask a question or make an objection to the person currently delivering their main speech – it is up to the speaker to accept or decline a POI that is offered, but it is recommended to accept at least 2.

No follow-up POIs are allowed, and answers are recommended to not cross ~15-20 seconds.



DEFINING THE MOTION



Defining the motion is about giving a clear explanation of what the motion means to ensure that all speakers and judges are clear on the topic being debated. If the two teams argue about very different things, then it becomes hard to pin down what exactly the disagreements between the teams are.

Teams should think about a few things when defining the motion:

- If a motion has an obvious meaning then it should be pursued.
- The debate should not be place or time-specific unless specified by the words of the motion.
- What do the important words in the motion mean and are the specifics obvious?

If the proposed definition seems unfair or illogical, as an opposition speaker:

- You have the right to contest it
- Explain why it's unfair and offer a better alternative
- Note that challenges to definitions are rare and can complicate debates, and hence it is generally recommended to accept the given definition and focus on arguing your points
- It's important to maintain a constructive and respectful tone when contesting definitions, as it can affect the overall atmosphere of the debate and perceptions of the audience





ROLE OF FIRST SPEAKER

The first speaker of proposition is responsible for

- defining the motion
- outlining the arguments that their team will bring (their team's case)
- explaining which speakers will present which of those arguments
- presenting part of the case for their side

Similarly, the first speaker of the opposition is responsible for

- challenging the definition and providing a new one (only if they feel that the proposition's definition is unfair)
- outlining the arguments that opposition will bring (their team's case)
- explaining which speakers will present which of those arguments
- responding to the arguments of first proposition (this is called rebuttal)
- presenting part of that case for their side

The first speaker is recommended to present two substantial arguments. Opposition will have to manage their time well as they also have to provide a short rebuttal case to Proposition's first speaker.





ROLE OF SECOND SPEAKERS

The second speakers in the debate are responsible for:

- continuing to defend their definition (if required).
- continuing the case presented by their team (i.e presenting a new argument)

This will include defending their previous speaker's points from the rebuttal the other team has made, offering rebuttal to the other team's case and making one new argument to support your case.

It is not recommended for second speakers to put forward more than one argument, and it is important to allocate adequate time to present effective and coherent rebuttal.

ROLE OF THIRD SPEAKERS

The third speaker's role involves addressing the arguments put forth by the opposing team while also defending and reinforcing the arguments made by their own team. This means countering the criticisms and rebuttals raised by the opposing team against their own team's arguments (essentially rebutting the rebuttal). It's generally advisable not to introduce new material during this phase of the debate; the emphasis is on strengthening the team's position largely by addressing any weaknesses or objections raised by the opposition, especially in the main points of contention between the two stances.





RULES/GUIDELINES

- Speeches are allowed to extend up to **30 seconds after 6 minutes have passed**. Any content spoken after that time will not be considered.
- POIs asked during **protected time** (1st and 6th minutes) will be **ignored**.
- Cameras are not expected to be on at all times, but when speaking it is recommended to keep your camera on.
- Maintaining your own timer is good practice as it will be easier for you to keep track of your time.

GOOD LUCK!
LET THE DEBATE BEGIN

