

# **TECHNICAL TURNCOAT**

## **INTRO:**

Turncoat is a form of debating in which a single speaker has to speak both for and against a given topic. As a matter of fact, the speaker should be able to argue for both sides of a given motion. The main component of a turncoat event is to maintain coherence in an argument even when switching. A link for a turncoat debate of two minutes is given below for reference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXn-bWr2sEI>

## **EVENT FORMAT:**

There will be two rounds in this contest: a)Preliminary Round b)Final Round

a)Preliminary Round: All participants will have to speak for five minutes on a given topic. Preferably the speaker should be able to speak for and against the topic for two and a half minutes each.

b)Final Round: Depending on the number of participants, a final round with six to eight participants will be held. Here, the participants will be switching their cases once they here the signal from the judges. Each participant will have to switch thrice, in a 6 minute duration.

## **Prize Money(in INR):**

1st: 5000

2nd: 3,000

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

### **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

1)Every participant will be given five minutes of time at the maximum in this round.

2)There will be a limited number of topics given to the participants prior to the commencement of the competition To ensure fairness in competition, the speakers will be allowed to choose the topic they are most comfortable with. The motions are given below in a separate section.

NOTE: All the topics are related to current technologies or related events.

3)The top eight speakers will be selected for the final round out of the total number of participants.

4)The participants will be judged based on their arguments and structure and less weightage will be given to their diction.

5)The speakers will have to start 'For' the motion.

6)There will be a buzzer indicating completion of two and a half minutes, following which the participant has to turn the coat i.e, has to flip sides of the topic.

7)The participant will be speaking 'For' the motion for 2 and a half minutes and against the motion for 2 and a half minutes roughly.

8)There will be an appropriate penalty for not being able to change his/her stance once the buzzer is heard. More details are given below in the marking scheme section.

### **MOTIONS FOR PRELIMS:**

THS: This house supports

THBT: This house believes that

TH: This house

1) THS Mingo's initiative View Info Slide Mingo is a large Multinational Conglomerate which runs one of the world's largest pharmaceuticals' research and manufacturing operations. In its attempt to reduce drug testing on animals, Mingo pays healthy individuals to participate in drug testing and development. In addition to a handsome lump sum payment, Mingo undertakes to provide for the families of those who have died or are injured as a result of the drug testing/development. The results of such tests being MORE effective are not conclusive yet

2) THBT robots with Artificial Intelligence should be given equal rights as humans

3) TH supports the development of lethal autonomous weapons.

4) THBT countries should be allowed to develop nuclear capabilities without restrictions.

5) THBT government (India) should be allowed to use facial recognition to scan crowds and use it for security purposes.

Context: This has been a recent issue of contention regarding the above in one of Narendra Modi's rally.

6) Context: In incidents like San Bernardino shootings, the US government demanded the manufacturer to override certain security measures in the shooter's iPhone for national security purposes. But Apple denied the request stating user privacy concerns THBT national security issues should take preference over individual privacy.

### **FINAL ROUND:**

- 1)A common topic will be given for the finals.
- 2)A finalist can only be seated as the audience once his/her turn to speak is over.
- 3)In this round, speakers will be given six minutes of time at the maximum.
- 4)There will be two random buzzer signals within the six minute interval. On hearing the buzzer, the speaker must flip his argument and continue till the next buzzer is heard.
- 5)The finalists can start either for or against the motion in this round depending on their convenience.
- 6)Topics will be given 10 minutes before the starting time for each participant, and hence other finalists are advised to not divulge the topics to other finalists before hand.
- 7)The order in which speakers will be called on stage will be decided by lots.

### **MARKING SCHEME / Judging criteria:**

The marking scheme will be fairly similar to any scheme in parliamentary debate with one modification:

There will be four main criteria for marking any participant:

**1)MATTER:(30 points)**

The speaker will be judged on the validity of arguments and the explanation provided by the speaker. Supporting examples can also be introduced here.

**2)METHOD:(30 points)**

The speaker will be judged on the way he/she has structured the above arguments in a coherent manner with proper continuity. (Chronology samajhna :p).

**3)MANNER:(10 points)**

This part will be given a lesser importance, and will include non verbal performance including body language and intonation.

**4)TRANSITION:(30 points)**

As the event is a turncoat, there will be emphasis on how the speaker transitions and links opposing side of the arguments.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT TRANSITION PENALTY:**

Once the buzzer is heard, the speaker will have a grace of around 15 to 20 seconds to change his stance and continue the performance. Failing to do so will result in penalties. Points will be deducted depending on extra time taken by speaker to 'turn the coat' (changing from for to against the argument or vice versa). The penalty will be 5 points deducted from the total for roughly every 20 seconds extra taken.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

- 1)The audience is expected to maintain decorum during the event. Jeering or any form of personal insults are strictly disallowed.

2)Speakers will not be allowed to direct any personal insults against any other fellow participants during the speeches.

3)Usage of internet is prohibited for participants, as the background will be provided along with the topic.

4)In case of any dispute/disagreement, the discretion of the judges and event organizers will be final and binding.

5)Please note that the rules have been framed as fairly as possible to eliminate any unequal and unfair competition, hence speakers are allowed to follow the spirit of the contest.

## **CONTACT**

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