Handout: Introduction to the world of debate

Contents

DIKI GT

GIKI (English) DT is the only team in GIKI regularly participating in British and Asian Parliamentary (BP and AP) format tournaments. Although our main focus is on BP and AP, we stay open to most debate and public speaking opportunities, such as: national level declamations, model UNs, and WSDCs.

Our mission is to promote debating in GIKI and in Pakistan, and to achieve this, we engage in the following core activities:

1. **Weekly Debate Camp**: At least twice a week, DT convenes to participate in sessions, drills, or complete matches, focusing on improving the skills of DT members. However, in line with our mission, our sessions, drills and matches are usually open and free for all!
2. **Event Support**: DT provides its expertise by supporting debate events within or outside GIKI, such as in organising committees, equity teams, tabulation teams, swing teams, and adjudicators.
3. **Competitive Debating**: DT sends teams in competitive debating and public speaking events in various formats, ranging from BPs to declamations.
4. **Debate Events**: DT organises events like Pre-WUDC, Society Fair Stall, Exhibition Match, and the Debate Team Friendly to promote debate in the country and GIKI.

Although DT is a *debating* team first and foremost, we support people in finding their own way to contribute to our mission, whether that be through our various non-technical domains or through our specialised technical domains or otherwise. We also constantly work to ensure that DT remains an open and welcoming community of debaters and thus pursue initiatives to achieve this, such as introducing a flat organisational hierarchy.

DT Domains

Public Relations (PR - Non-Technical)

PR is the first non-technical domain, mainly working on DT's public image, branding, and external communication. This includes managing social media presence, creating promotional materials for events, and handling communications to keep stakeholders informed. They are key in conveying DT's mission and activities to the wider GIKI community and beyond.

We have three focus areas in PR:
1. **External Affairs**: Relationship and image with external entities such as other debate communities, sponsors, or universities.
2. **GIKI Engagement**: Relationship and image within GIKI, especially with admin and students.
3. **General Marketing**: Overall approach to marketing and communication.

Operations (Ops - Non-Technical)

Ops is the second non-technical domain, mainly working to empower the team to attend and organise the events.

This domain handles the logistics, financial management, and internal coordination necessary for DT's smooth functioning. They ensure that all competitive and promotional activities have the necessary resources and infrastructure.

We have three focus areas in Ops:
1. **Logistics**: Managing the physical aspects of events and participation, including travel arrangements, accommodation, venue booking, and management for sessions and tournaments.
2. **Finance**: Handling budgeting, expense tracking, fundraising efforts, and securing necessary financial approvals for DT activities and travel.
3. **Administration**: Focusing on internal documentation, coordinating approvals, and managing issues as they arise.

Debate and Adjudication (Technical)

Debate and Adjudication is the main technical domain of the debate team, here, we learn and practice skills relevant to parliamentary debating. This domain is central to DT's core mission, providing the technical expertise required for competitive parliamentary debate.

Members in this domain immerse themselves in the complex structures and nuanced argumentation necessary for formats like British and Asian Parliamentary debate. This involves intensive practice sessions, developing cases, mastering rebuttal techniques, and understanding the role-specific responsibilities within a debate round.

Crucially, it also encompasses the art of adjudication – learning the principles of fair and consistent judgment, understanding how to weigh arguments effectively, and providing constructive feedback. Beyond this, occasional drills such as motion committee sessions allow us to keep our skills honed in case any of us are approached for CAP positions.

The continuous development within this domain ensures that DT maintains a high level of competitive readiness for national and international tournaments while also cultivating a strong internal culture of rigorous intellectual exchange and critical analysis.

Equity (Technical)

The equity team is the second technical domain, learning and practicing the skills necessary to effectively be part of any competitive equity committee. This involves rigorous training on understanding and applying tournament equity policies, conducting thorough investigations into complaints, and maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality and impartiality. Members learn how to foster an inclusive and safe environment for all participants in a debate setting, recognising the importance of procedural fairness and restorative justice within the competitive sphere.

The domain's work is vital for upholding the integrity of any debate event DT is involved in, both as participants and as service providers to organising committees. This expertise allows DT members to competently fill roles on equity teams at major tournaments, ensuring that the competitive environment remains respectful and accessible to everyone.

Tabulation (Technical)

Tabulation is the last technical domain, concerned with tabulation and tech in tournaments and within the debate program of GIKI. For tournament tabulation, we focus on tabbycat, tabtastic, discord and google meet and for tabulating our debate program, we rely on our in-house tabrela tabbing software.

This domain requires meticulous attention to detail and a strong grasp of technical tools. The primary responsibility is to ensure the smooth and accurate running of competitive debate rounds, from registration and room assignment to result calculation and ranking. Members learn how to manage complex data structures, troubleshoot technical issues that arise during a tournament, and adhere strictly to the rules of procedure for each format. Expertise in this area is critical for contributing to the seamless execution of debate events, both internally and when supporting external tournaments. Good tabbing is the backbone for operational fairness and efficiency in any competitive setting.

Ad-Hoc

To serve short-term projects (such as merch or specific events), ad-hoc domains are created that adjust their needs to the project and dissolve as soon as the project is complete.

Major DT Events

Everything in this list is subject to changes, improvements, new ideas and can run into issues, this is just to give you an overview of what you might expect throughout a tenure.

GIKI Pre-WUDC/Pre-ABP/Pre-AP

We organise an online, international, open British Parliamentary or Asian Parliamentary competition, focusing on both fundraising for the tenure and networking the debate team with the international circuit.

Society Fair Stall

DT maintains a presence at the annual GIKI Society Fair. This serves as a primary recruitment drive and an opportunity to introduce the new intake to the world of debate. This event focuses on direct engagement with new students, providing them with information about the team, our activities, and how they can get involved, regardless of their prior experience.

Exhibition Match

The Exhibition Match is a high-profile, non-competitive debate showcasing the skill and intellectual rigor of competitive debating. To make this interesting and engaging for students, notable alumni or faculty can be engaged. The goal of this event is to inspire and educate the audience about the quality and entertainment value of parliamentary debate, demonstrating sophisticated argumentation and rebuttal techniques in a public setting. It often serves as a key promotional event for the team.

Debate Team Friendly

The Debate Team Friendly is an inter-university event designed to foster camaraderie, provide low-stakes competitive practice, and network. These matches are focused less on competitive results and more on providing a supportive environment for skill development, experimentation with different debate styles, and receiving constructive feedback.

GIKI Open

This is GIKI's in-person national open British Parliamentary debate competition. Here, our skills are tested on all fronts as we support the event with swing teams, adjudicators, tabulation, and equity.

Common External Events

WUDC/ABP/AP

These are known as "international major" tournaments. Usually, the main barrier to entry for these events are visas and costs, and DT is always supportive of members going to participate in international majors.

Shahjiwna and LUMS IV

Shahjiwna, GIKI Open, and LUMS IV are the biggest British Parliamentary tournaments in Pakistan. DT aims to attend at least two out of these three tournaments every year.

Islamabad Open Debating Championship (IODC) and Pak Debate Forum Open (PDF Open)

Although more focused on Islamabad, these events are frequented by DT. DT is a member of Islamabad Universities Debating Circuit (IUDC) – the organisers of IODC – and DT aims to maintain good relationships with local circuit stakeholders, like Pak Debate Forum.

HEC Organised Declamations

HEC regularly holds declamation and pseudo-parliamentary competitions, which the admin encourages us to participate in. Although more focused on the public speaking side, we generally attend HEC organised events due to its importance to the admin.

Debate Society of Pakistan Events

Although the Debate Society of Pakistan tends to focus more on World School's Debating Championship (WSDC), DT supports our mission to promote debate on the high and middle school level by offering adjudicators and other technical support to events.

Notable DT Projects

DT Newsletter

A newsletter showing DT's contributions, competitive successes, and internal activities. This project serves as a key communication tool for keeping the GIKI community, alumni, and external stakeholders informed about the Debate Team's impact and achievements throughout the year. It highlights major event participation, competitive results (local and international), training initiatives, and profiles of key members. It also acts as a record of the team's history and a promotional resource for recruitment and external affairs.

Tabrela

Tabrela is an in-house tabbing project made to document internal debates and friendlies. It approaches tabulation "backward" focusing on tabulating the individual instead of tabulating tournaments.

To tabulate and encourage friendlies, friendly leagues are adopted to provide a competitive but educational platform for debate.