

CE 474-LOGIC OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Debate Assignment & Instructions

Debate Session and Topics

You will participate in **two structured debates** during the semester. These debates occur in **Weeks 6, and 9**, and each team's performance will count toward your continuous-assessment mark.

Week	Topic
Week 6	"Completeness is more important than soundness in logic systems."
Week 9	"Program verification is essential for all production-quality software."

Debate Format: British Parliamentary (BP) Style

We will use the British Parliamentary (BP) debate format. Each debate will feature two sides:

- **Government**
 - Opening Government (OG): Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Team Whip
 - Closing Government (CG): Member of Government, Deputy Member of Government, Team Whip
- **Opposition**
 - Opening Opposition (OO): Leader of Opposition, Deputy Leader of Opposition, Team Whip
 - Closing Opposition (CO): Member of Opposition, Deputy Member of Opposition, Team Whip

Each team has 3 speakers. The time allocations and roles are as follows:

Speaker	Role	Time	Responsibilities
First Speaker		7 min	Present substantive case and team's roadmap
Deputy Speaker		7 min	Rebut, engage opponents, add new material
Team Whip		5 min	Summarize team's entire case (no new arguments)

Time Management

- Strict time limits: Warnings at 30 seconds; speech ends at cutoff.
- No interruptions: Opposing teams may take notes but must remain silent.
- A 1-minute break is granted after opposing opening speeches for rebuttal preparation.

Team Formation

- Teams of 3–5 students will be assigned at the start of each debate week.
- You will be randomly placed in one of the BP team roles (e.g., Closing Opposition).

Preparation Requirements

1. Research and Evidence

- Gather definitions, theorems, illustrative examples, and relevant logic tools.
- You may include demos such as resolution proofs, Prolog code, or Hoare logic sketches.
- Cite all non-textbook sources (include author, title, and year).

2. Outline Submission

By the **Friday before debate week**, submit the following to your Rep:

- A one-paragraph position statement.
- A bullet-point list of three main arguments.
- Two anticipated counter-arguments and your rebuttals.

Note: Late submissions lose a mark out of the allocated for debate preparation.

Rules and Conduct

- Use formal logic language; avoid undefined casual terms.
- Academic integrity is required: all arguments must be your own.
- Maintain professionalism: active listening, no electronic distractions or side talk.

Assessment Rubric (Total: 5 marks)

You will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. Logical Soundness
2. Evidence and Support
3. Organization and Clarity
4. Rebuttal and Engagement
5. Delivery and Teamwork

You will receive both a **numerical score** and **written feedback** summarizing strengths and areas for improvement.

Final Note

These debates are designed to deepen your understanding of logic and formal reasoning, while sharpening your ability to argue critically and persuasively. Debate is not just a test of what you know; it is training for the collaborative and analytical work essential in industry, research, and software development.

Good luck and prepare thoroughly!