



Debating Tutorial Handouts

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Debating Tutorial:

General Rules and Guidelines to debating.



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General Rules & Guidelines for Debating

The aim of this page is to give you an idea of how to debate. It's not just a simple case of standing up and saying the first thing that comes into your head. There are certain rules and guidelines which have to be adhered to if you want to have any chance in a competitive debate.

This is not the page with all the answers. It is only a rough set of guidelines to help get you started. Everyone should try to find their own strengths and failings.

In the Debating Union we practice British Parliamentary style, which is now the official style of the World Championships. In the U.S., Canada, etc. a very different style is practiced.

- 1. Speeches should be SEVEN minutes in duration. Speakers exceeding this may be penalised but should never be substantially less than this. In general you should speak for at least 6:45 and generally no more than 7:20-7:30. Ideally stay on your feet until you hear the 7th min bell and then finish (i.e. Mr. Speaker sir, I beg to.....) and be in your seat by 7:15. Your times will be recorded by the timekeeper and given to the adjudicators as they leave to make their decision.
- 2. In general most debates are in English. The main competitions are all in English but occasionally there are other Language debates usually in conjunction with some other event/soc. Debating in Europe, Asia etc tends to be in the local language. At Worlds there is an English as a second language competition.
- 3. A bell will be rung after the expiration of one minute and six minutes. The bell will be rung again at seven minutes and at regular intervals after that.



4. If the chair of the debate is the head of the host society he/she usually has a title e.g. Speaker, Auditor, etc. Most often the proper form of address is Mr Speaker/Madame Speaker. You must also acknowledge the adjudicators, if there are any. Some speakers will also acknowledge other members of the house, it is basically just a matter of personal preference as to how you begin your speech after acknowledging the chair and adjudicators. (e.g. "Mr Speaker, Madame Secretary, Adjudicators, Ladies & Gentlemen.....").

- 5. Points of information may only be offered after the expiration of one minute and may not be given after the expiration of six minutes. Points of information may only be given to opposing speakers and should generally be not more than 15 seconds in duration. The chairman may request a speaker to end a point of information at his/her discretion. Adjudicators also frown upon barracking (constantly interrupting the speaker by offering points) and the chair is expected to control this. Acceptance of points of information is at discretion of the competitor holding the floor. In competitive debates only the competitors may offer points of information however in non-competitive debates points will often be accepted from the audience. Once you have accepted a point of information you can't just ignore it and carry on. You must deal with it or risk the adjudicator's wrath.
- 6. In most societies Maiden speakers (i.e. speakers making a speech for the first time) have the protection of the chair. Other speakers may not offer them points of information unless they choose not to accept the protection of the chair. Even if they reject the protection of the chair most experienced speakers will not offer them a point unless they run into difficulty and it can help them. If you are good enough (or misfortunate enough depending on how you look at it) to be making your maiden speech in an intervarsity (rare but it has been known to happen) you do not have any special protection.

7. Points of order concerning the procedure of the debate must be addressed to the chair. These can be brought at any time and take priority over all other speeches.

However these are only used in exceptional



circumstances when the rules and standing orders are being abused and the speaker making the point must be certain that the point of order is appropriate. In British Parliamentary there is no such thing as Points of Personal Privilege (which are used in the US/Canada).

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- 8. Speakers must observe parliamentary language i.e. bad language is not permitted.
- 9. The use of Props is not permitted in a debate.
- 10. No amendment to the motion is permitted. You must debate the motion as presented and interpret it as best you can. You cannot define a motion in a Place/Time Specific sense (i.e. you cannot set the debate in Dublin 1916 and therefore attempt to limit the scope of the debate and information which the other teams can use)

- 11. The "house", which will often be referred to, is basically the chairperson competitors audience etc.



12. The speakers are evenly divided on both sides of the motion. Speakers for the motion are the "Proposition" or "Government", speakers against are the "Opposition".

- 13. The opening Prop speaker (sometimes called "Prime Minister") has to define or interpret the motion. If this definition is unreasonable or irrelevant then the opening opposition speaker may challenge the definition. But if the definition is relevant but just doesn't suit the opening opp. speaker attempting to redefine may not go down well with the adjudicators. If a definition is given and all the other speakers or teams completely ignore it then the defining speaker is effectively out of the debate. Definitions must also be fair and debatable "Truistic" or Self Proving arguments are not accepted. (e.g. The sea is full of water is pretty hard to reasonably argue against) For full guidelines as to who can redefine and when please refer to the Rules of British Parliamentary (e.g. the Sydney 2000 Rules).
- 14. The last speaker on each side is expected to sum up his/her side's argument and rebutt or refute the arguments of the other side. Generally this speaker will not add a great deal of new information to the debate.

15. Rebuttal is vital in any competitive speech. Any argument left unchallenged is allowed to stand. The later you come in a debate the more rebuttal you must use.



Rebuttal basically involves ripping the opposing side's argument apart and exposing its weak points. However don't forget to make your own argument and ideally use that to rebutt. It is important to also point out that unlike the style of debating in some countries you do not have to defeat every one of the opponents points (but of course all the Key ones must be knocked down). If the Government makes 19 points and you only manage to

hammer 17 in the time allowed then you will win and any attempt by the Government to point out that 2 of their arguments are left standing is basically grasping at straws.

- 16. Be careful to avoid leaving statements hanging in mid-air. If you say something important back it up. Just because you know something is true and where it came from that doesn't mean the audience/adjudicators know where it came from and why it's true. To a certain degree the safest bet is to assume that the audience know little or nothing about the subject.
- 17. Specialised Knowledge should not be used to unfairly define a motion. If you are a Legal, Scientific, Management, Computer etc student then you must remember that others in the debate may be "experts" in another field of study. Unfair definitions would include things like why the case of Smith versus Jones is more important to company law than Ryan versus Kelly. (These are just examples I have no idea if these cases even exist).



18. Just because you may not be competing this does not mean that you can take no part in the debate. All debates are usually opened up to the floor after the last speaker and once the adjudicators have retired. Often there is a prize for the best speaker here, but time allowed is usually no more than 3 min. to allow as many people take part as possible.

- 19. Heckling is also common in some debates. This involves members of the audience offering some good-humoured abuse to the competitors. However there is a fine line between heckling and barracking and members of the audience should remember to respect the speaker. Heckling can be scary at first but you will soon get used to it.
- 20. Private Members Time, PMT, is a period of time at the start of each debate where members may bring up a motion or issue that they wish to see debated. Speeches here are limited to 3 min. This is often a part of the debate, which is not

only used to raise issues but also where many speakers show off their wit and humour.

- 21. Remember you do not necessarily have to believe the side of the motion you are on. You just have to make it appear as though you strongly believe in it for 7 min. In competitive debates you will have very little choice as to which side of a motion you get.
- 22. No matter how bad you think your speech is try to stay up for the full seven minutes. If the audience is giving you a hard time just remember that they probably want you to walk off so don't give them the pleasure. If the chair doesn't control the audience ask him/her to and put him on the spot with the adjudicators. Of course you have to be able to handle a reasonable amount of heckling.



23. You don't have to be a genius for facts and figures to do well. If you can remember an example, or fact which you researched, to back up your argument use it. However if you get stuck and can't remember the exact details of the fact you want to use don't worry about it. If the underlying details of the report, research etc are correct then the chances are you will not be challenged and the point will be made. If an opposing member corrects you and gives you the correct name of the report, researcher, institute etc then they are an idiot for backing up your case.

- 23. You don't have to be a genius for facts and figures to do well. If you can remember an example, or fact which you researched, to back up your argument use it. However if you get stuck and think that a fact, figure or example is needed and you don't have one, try making one up. It can be risky if you get caught by a member of the opposing side who actually knows what they are talking about (it can be painful, believe me) but it can be very effective if you get away with it. This is not, however, a replacement for good research, only a fall back if you're in trouble.

- 24. If you can use humour it can be extremely effective in a debate. You can ridicule and destroy an opponent's whole speech with a one-line joke attacking it. But don't go over the top, while humour helps, adjudicators may not be impressed by stand up routine with little substance. Although humour can be an advantage don't worry if you can't crack a joke to save your life (or speech). You'll be surprised at the number of speakers who have to really struggle to include humour in a speech while others do it with ease
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Speaking order in a Debate

The speaking order depends on whether it is individuals or teams, or both, and the style being used in the competition but it generally follows either "Times" or "Mace/Worlds" format;

Individuals:



- (1.) Opening Prop.
- (2.) Opening Opp.
- (3.) 2nd Prop.
- (4.) 2nd Opp.
- (5.) 3rd Prop.
- (6.) 3rd opp.
- (7.) Last Prop.
- (8.) Last Opp.

Teams:



Times:

- (1.) 1st speaker from opening prop.
- (2.) 1st speaker from opening opp.
- (3.) 1st speaker from 2nd prop team.
- (4.) 1st speaker from 2nd opp team.
- (5.) 2nd speaker from opening prop.
- (6.) 2nd speaker from opening opp.
- (7.) 2nd speaker from 2nd prop.
- (8.) 2nd speaker from 2nd opp.

Mace/Worlds:

- (1.) 1st opening proposition.
- (2.) 1st opening opposition.
- (3.) 2nd opening proposition.
- (4.) 2nd opening opposition.
- (5.) 1st closing proposition.
- (6.) 1st closing opposition.
- (7.) 2nd closing proposition.
- (8.) 2nd closing opposition.

If there is a mixture of teams and individuals (e.g. in Times final) the Individual speakers are inserted in the middle of the debate i.e. after the first speaker for the last team and before the last speaker for the for the first team.

- (1.) 1st speaker from opening prop.
- (2.) 1st speaker from opening opp.
- (3.) 1st speaker from 2nd prop.
- (4.) 1st speaker from 2nd opp.
- (5.) 1st proposing individual.
- (6.) 1st opposing individual
- (7.) 2nd proposing individual.
- (8.) 2nd opposing individual.
- (9.) 2nd speaker from opening prop.

and so on.

Naturally the actual order depends on the number of teams/individuals debating.

Researching your debate

Research is vital and cannot be avoided if you want to make a winning speech. Some people say that only a small portion of your research should appear in your speech and the majority will come into play later. I have yet to see the "later". This may be in the form of points of information but that is assuming that you can predict what information you will need to contradict what the speaker says. If you have information don't keep it to yourself, USE IT.

Look for facts and examples more so than statistics. While statistics can be very handy for filling up a few minutes, they are also boring. Your information should back up your argument and be memorable. If you find a little known fact that will surprise the audience and catch their attention use it strategically. Place it at a crucial stage of your speech in a way that everything falls in together and the audience becomes convinced of the truth of what you are saying. Remember that your argument is the most important part of your speech and your research should back it up, not the other way round.

Sources:

There are invaluable sources of information all around and you will very rarely come across a motion which you can find absolutely no information if you look hard enough.

- **Internet:**

Type any subject into the Internet and you are likely to get back 100 sites with useful information and "Greater than 250,000" of utter rubbish (e.g. this site). However there are a couple of good places to start. On the main page of this site you will find links to a couple of research webpages which give pros and cons about many topics. They are www.Debatabase.com and www.Youdebate.com

- **Library:**

Although you may complain about your library it is still an invaluable source of information. Look around the sections which relate to your motion and flick through a few books that look relevant. A good source of historical information are the "Chronicle" style, black bound, journals in the history section of a good college library. These are updated monthly. If you don't know where to go for information take the keywords from the motion and type them into a nearby terminal. It should give you the book references you need.

- **Books:**

Yes there are books available which give Pros and Cons of various topics. They should be used with caution and not a complete replacement for your own arguments and research but they are a good start point and particularly useful in the first 2-3 min of your 15 min prep at Worlds style events. Not surprisingly the best of these books is called Pros and Cons

- **Journals Room:**



This is easily the best source of information on any campus. If you have a motion dealing with a topical political, cultural, or scientific subject then the first thing you should do is look through the back issues of Time and Newsweek. These contain a huge amount of information and not only on current affairs. If you've never read them it is well worth spending a short time flicking through them so that you get a feel for the sort of information they carry and where to find it if you need it later. If you want more information then there is bound to be some information about it in other more specialised journals but it may be harder to find. You could also look up the past

issues of newspapers on microfilm but you really would want to know exactly what you are looking for.

- **T.V. & Radio:**

While it is unlikely that TV will oblige you by broadcasting a program dealing with the subject behind your motion while you are preparing for it you can still use them for information. If you know that there is a documentary, special report or debate on a topical issue why not watch, or listen to, it. You don't have to go out of your way or sit there taking notes like a lecture but if you have nothing better to do you might be surprised how much of it you will remember if it comes up later.

- **Brainstorming:**



This involves a group of people getting together to discuss a motion and come up with ideas. The group meets in a room and trash out the various issues involved from a definition and line to examples and the other sides possible strategy. One member writes down all the ideas and this is best done on a blackboard so a tutorial room is sometimes used. However these can also become side-tracked (one I was at lasted over three hours and only twenty minutes were spent discussing the motion). If used effectively they should work well and we may start doing them on a more regular and organised basis. Even if you don't want to hold a brainstorming session don't be afraid to ask other debaters for ideas, most will be glad to help and may even have debated the motion before.

- **A word of caution**

There are many other sources of information if you know where to look. Perhaps the best source is your own memory. If you remember some fact but are hazy on the exact details of where or when you heard it don't be afraid to use it. A debate isn't an exam so the information you use doesn't have to be 100% accurate just sort of, from a certain point of view of course.

However remember an outright lie can be considered unethical and some more "conservative" people in debating would like to report students who break local codes of ethics to their home college officials. These people have lost all sight of the goal of debating and believe that an inability to stick to the moral code they subscribe to means you can be expelled from college. They take no account of the fact that people get facts wrong and often in an attempt to win will use facts they have not "properly researched". In my opinion this is an extremely dangerous trend in debating and while rare you should ask for clarification on the situation if debating outside the British Isles and Worlds competitions (particularly in eastern Europe). Of course by even advocating a lack of research I can be accused of unethical behaviour by these people. In response I say that my view of debating is that it is a pastime not a research conference. I will **never condone blatant lies** but I recognise that the world is far too vast for mere mortals to research the hundreds of topics that could arise at worlds and the human brain could never store that volume of information. You are dealing with young people who have to absorb and remember vast amounts of information. Facts will be muddled and quotes not properly referenced. That doesn't make their central point any less valid. The cut & thrust of debating is to undermine and highlight flaws in the opposing side's logic and fact. That their facts are accidentally flawed is not justification to seek to formally punish them and have them expelled from college as some misguided academics would seek.

Structure of a Speech

Ideally you should try to have a structure to your speech. If you do then it is more likely to be a good speech. If you don't have some form of structure you may be penalised by adjudicators and you may ramble. You don't have to use a strict structure just have a mental layout of what you want to say and when. In fact if you have too rigid a structure then you will find it impossible to stick to it, when you have to rebutt and deal with points of information.

The following is a **rough** outline of how to structure your speech. In general just use these as guidelines and, ideally, develop a style and structure which you are comfortable with.



1st Minute (0:00-1:00):

(Can't be given a point of information).

- Win the audience, perhaps with a joke.
- Don't rebutt another speakers speech.
- Define your speech, i.e. say what you will address and how.
- Ideally be able to state your argument in a single, short sentence.
- Define your team approach i.e. say, roughly, what your partner will say (or has said).

2nd Minute (1:00-2:00):

- Don't take any Points of information until foundation has been laid i.e. until you have developed your speech a bit.

- Layout your argument.
- Usually best to propose/oppose on 3 points. (e.g. Political, Economic, Social).
- Begin your first point.

3rd-6th Minute (2:00-6:00):

- Accept 2 to 3 points of information. Say outline political aspects and deal with them.
- Then take a P.O.I. on that. Do the same for the other aspects (i.e. Economics & Social).
- Use these four minutes to make all your points. Effectively this is your speech.
- Refer back to the single, short, core sentence one or two times.

7th Minute (6:00-7:00):

- Once the sixth minute bell has gone you can't be offered any points of information.
- Finish the point you were on as quickly as possible.
- Don't introduce any new points or arguments.
- Sum up. Reiterate your main points and arguments (and those of your partner if you are the second team speaker.).
- Ideally, if possible, restate the single, core sentence as the last thing you say.

7:00 min:

- Stay on your feet until you hear the bell.
- Finish, immediately if possible, "Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to".
- Be back in your seat by 7:15, if possible, and no later than 7:30.

Speaking Style

One thing you are bound to notice at any debate is the different speaking styles used by the competitors. Speaking style is perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of debating to attempt to "teach". You will have to develop your own style and preferably one that comes naturally to you. However there are a couple of things to be kept in mind.



1. You must speak clearly and loudly enough so that your voice can be heard by everyone. Remember the adjudicators will sit towards the rear of the hall so at the very least they must be able to hear what you are saying if you are to have any chance of winning. However you shouldn't shout as the halls have generally been designed so that your voice will carry towards the back.

2. Try to avoid monotone. If you are making an important point use your voice to stress it and make it stand out. Try to slowly increase the stress and force behind your voice as you go through your speech. Build up to a high point and make this the crucial point of your speech. However don't bring the audience on a rollercoaster ride. Don't start high, fall down, build-up and fall down again, it looks as though you are only convinced about the truth of half your speech.



3. Keep eye-contact with the audience and don't stare at the podium. It gets easier to do this after some experience and once you use fewer notes. Some people like to pick out individuals in the audience and look at them. Others just speak to the audience as a whole. However you do it make sure to scan the audience and move your gaze to different parts of the hall regularly.



4. Use your body language to back up your speech. If you stand rigidly and don't move then you will find it very difficult to have any real conviction in your voice. Use your arms and facial expressions to convey your emotions and back up your speech. However don't go overboard, you want the audience's attention to be focused on your speech not your arms. Try not to have anything in your hands. Some people like to carry a pen and end up waving it about like a baton which can distract the adjudicators. If you really need something use index cards.



5. You don't have to stand strictly behind the podium. Move around a bit and face different sections of the audience at different times. Apparently studies have shown that people tend to prefer to be able to see the whole person as this is supposed to indicate that you aren't hiding anything. However, once again, don't go overboard. It annoys people (and more importantly adjudicators) if you walk too far from the podium. Try not to go more than 1-2 meters away from the podium. One way to ensure this is to leave your notes on the podium, you'll find yourself reluctant to move too far from them.

6. Don't be too complicated. If your argument is too elaborate people may have difficulty following it. Don't use 15 syllable Latin words when a 2 syllable English word will do. Remember you are trying to convince the audience that your argument is the best and not that you consider your talent wasted on them (even if it is).



7. Use humour to help win over the audience and make your speech stand out. If you have a natural talent for comedy or impersonations etc. then use it. If you don't then don't worry about it, even the most serious of us can be funny at times (often even without meaning it). You can work out a few put downs and one-liners in advance but be careful. If a joke sounds too prepared than it may bomb. Try to make it sound spontaneous and it's more likely to be successful.

The best thing to do is watch other speakers and see how they combine the various elements. Experiment with different styles and try to find one that you are comfortable with. However the only real way to develop a good style is to try to speak on a regular basis and listen to the advice of adjudicators and the more experienced debaters.

Points of information

- Points of Information are a vital part of any debate and should not be underestimated. Before and after your speech you can't just sit quietly and enjoy the other speeches. You must keep the adjudicators aware of your presence, ideas and argument. Also P.O.I. can be used as a weapon to undermine, and even destroy, an opponents speech.

Presentation:

- When giving a point of information you are expected to stand up, hold your left hand out (place your right hand on your head, honestly!) and say "On a point of information sir". Different people use slight variations on this but this is the basic one. Often speed is important to get in first, but that is no guarantee that you will be accepted. So you should make sure that you have enough space to stand up quickly and at a split second's notice (without sending your notes flying towards the podium). If you can do without a bench for writing, then a front row seat is ideal. If however you can't then use a seat at the end of a row so that you need only stand out to the side. Once you have been accepted stand facing the speaker at the podium but also try to half face the chair and audience, if possible.

Keep your P.O.I. short and to the point. The max. time allowed is 15sec but you should try for between 5 and 10 sec.



Remember that many speakers like to take a P.O.I. and then use the time to check what they will say next while half listening to the person offering the point. Once they know what the next part of their speech is they work out an answer to your point. If your point is only about 5 sec. in duration it doesn't give them enough time and is more likely to catch

them (especially if the point is weak and wouldn't work well if they had time to think about it). It looks bad if they have to stop to think what to say, especially if they have to ask you to repeat it.

Timing is important. If a speaker is in full stride and knows exactly where they are going for the next few seconds, he/she is unlikely to accept a point. Wait for a pause, for breath etc. by the speaker and then offer the point. Obviously you have to be quick and good reflexes are needed to be on your feet literally within a split second. I've found that a point is more likely to be accepted in this type of case but you can't wait for too long as the point could then be out of place.

Styles:

- Different people have different styles when it comes to Points of Information. Some people (no names) like to virtually barrage opposing speakers with every point which pops into their head. This can be very difficult to deal with and takes some getting used to. The trick is to just ignore it if possible and make your speech. If you decide to use this type of style be very careful. It has been known to annoy adjudicators if taken too far and there IS a precedence for having speakers disqualified.



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Most speakers prefer to just wait and see how a speech develops. This involves leaving weak points go and use just one or two attacking the central core of the speech once it has developed a bit.

Accepting:

- When you are speaking you should accept 2-3 points. Watch out for good speakers. If someone has killed off every other speaker on your side be careful and don't assume that you can handle them. Accept someone else ideally someone who has been offering poor points all night. Points should not be longer than 15 sec. but you can cut that person off before this if they are making a very poor point and particularly if you have a good put-down to use on them. Always deal with the point that is offered. Never accept a point as true, unless the offerer has made a mistake and it backs up your argument. Always try to dismiss a point as incorrect or irrelevant. A point ignored is allowed to stand and will go against you in adjudication.
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Roles in a debate

Prime Minister (Opening Speaker);

It is the duty of the “Prime Minister” to define the topic of the debate BUT it must be clearly linked to the Motion. In some cases the motion will be worded in such a way as to permit a wide variety of Definitions (e.g. “This house believes that the Glass is half full”, Worlds 98.) Others will be tighter motions, which allow little flexibility for Definition (e.g. “This house believes that Northern Nationalists have nothing to fear from a United Kingdom” Irish Times 96). As 1st Government you should look for a twist to the motion. For example “This house would rebuild the Berlin Wall” (Worlds 96) is often defined as repartitioning of Germany and a return to Communism. This is, in my experience, a very difficult line to win from. Two more “successful” definitions which I have seen run are that the Berlin Wall represented a division between East and west and that (a) the EU should not allow Eastern Bloc countries membership until they have fulfilled certain Social and Economic Criteria. Or (b) that Nato should not expand membership eastward.

When Defining make sure that you have an argument. You have to propose something. Saying that something is wrong and this is how it should be is not enough. You must say that something is wrong and THIS is what you are going to do about it. “What you are going to do” is the debatable part of the definition.

Example “This house favours Positive Discrimination”. Poor Defn: People have been discriminated against because of their sex/race/etc and they shouldn’t be in the future therefore we’ll use something called Positive Discrimination. Better Definition: People have been discriminated against because of their sex/race/etc and to correct that we are going to take actions X, Y, and Z under the umbrella name of Positive Discrimination. You must then fully outline what actions X, Y, and Z are and how they will work.

Opposition Leader;

It is your role to set out the opposition to the Governments case. You have only 7min (or less) to come up with your opposition case but provided that the Government have presented a debatable case you will be expected to handle the limited time for preparation. Outline and develop your case. Then deal with the points made by the government and link back the reason for them being flawed to whatever your team's central case is. Remember the role of last Opp is to rebut all four Government speakers in his/her 7 min and sum up the entire opposition case. You have only seen one speaker so you can't make a "Last Opp Speech" Look at it in terms of proportions. You've only seen a quarter of the Government therefore at most a quarter of your speech should be rebuttal. The rest should involve outlining a "substantive" opposition case.

It is also your duty to decide if the case is debatable. If it isn't (and be very, very certain that it isn't) then you must submit an alternative definition. You cannot simply say "That's a Truistic/self proving" argument, spend seven minutes outlining why and sit down. If you do that then you will have failed to do your duty as 1st opposition. If you have the ability to spot a truistic argument then you should have the ability to redefine, or at least to modify the Governments case to make it debatable.

Deputy Prime Minister;

You must further develop your team's argument. Rebut what the first opposition speaker has said but don't spend all your time rebutting. Your team's case can't have been fully outlined and developed so to spend 7 min attacking one opposition speaker is no win tactic.

You must back up your teammate. If he/she has been torn apart then don't jump ship. "CLARIFY" what your teammate said. Don't abandon your case because you realise that it is flawed. Judges will look out for that and will penalise a "Dump" severely. You will gain more marks for bailing your teammate out than for jumping ship and engaging the opposition on their ground leaving your teammate behind.

Deputy Opposition Leader;

As with the second government speaker you must back up your teammate. Don't abandon your case because you realise that it is flawed. Fix it but don't get an entirely new one. A good guideline is that you should spend double the amount of time rebutting that your teammate and therefore the rest of your speech is reserved for YOUR team's case.

Remember that your team's case should be set up in such a way that it in itself rebuts the government case. Therefore simply by developing it you are rebutting the government. If you remember this it should help you avoid the trap that a lot of Opp speakers fall into of 100% point-by-point rebuttal. There is a misconception that the opposition just have to oppose and don't have to lend any constructive argument or matter to the debate. People will get away with this from time to time but the recent trend in adjudication is to frown on that. It is an easy way out and doesn't really lend anything to the debate. Constructive opposition always looks better than mere opposition for opposition's sake. This applies in debating as well as most things in life.

Member for the Government (3rd Gov Speaker);

You are the first speaker in the second half of the debate. Now you have options to consider

If there has been a redefinition, and IF it was a valid redefinition then you must decide if you are going to follow the Government line or switch to the definition which the Opposition as offered and take them on at that. Be careful. It is also possible to take a combination of both but you will have to be careful not to tangle your argument up in trying to tie the two definitions together.

If the Government presented a case, which was debatable but weak and has been thorn apart you cannot simply stab them in the back. You may however bring in an "extension" this allows you to bring in a new point of view while still roughly

following the Government line. Again just, as with 1st government, you must present a debatable definition.

Your role is to develop your team line. As with all government speakers you cannot spend all your 7 min rebutting the opposition. Outline and fully develop YOUR team line, showing how it links to AND backs up the original government case. As you develop your case use it to rebut the opposition. Also remember that a sizable amount of your teammate's speech will involve summing up the entire Government case and rebutting the opposition. He/She will have little time to further develop your team's case so you must do a good job on your team line. You are almost in an individual debate against 3rd Opp speaker and your argument must be fully developed or he/she will destroy you, and there will be no come back from your teammate. If your teammate has to spend all his/her time bailing you out then you have failed and have dragged him/her down with you.

Member for the Opposition (3rd Opposition Speaker);

In my experience this is a difficult position in terms of strategy. You can't give a 100% rebuttal speech and you also are limited in that your teammate will not be in a position to spend a lot of time developing your case (see Opposition Whip's role). It is up to you to set out AND fully develop your team's case. Remember you have to provide matter of your team's argument in such a way that it stands out from the other teams. You should concentrate on the third Government speaker in your rebuttal. You must rebut what the 1st Gov team said but it is primarily your duty to take on the extension provided by the 2nd Gov team. If first opposition have done their job then the time you spend rebutting the 1st Gov team will in effect be going over what they have done and impinging on your teammate's role.

Government Whip; (last Gov speaker)

Both Whips will be penalised if you do not Sum up your side and rebut the opposition. You can develop your team line a little but the vast majority of your time must be spent summing up the ENTIRE government case and rebutting the

Opposition arguments. Remember as well that the 3rd opposition speaker has probably spent a sizable amount of time attacking your teammate so you should spend some time on your team line and counteracting the attack on it. In short you must do 3 distinct things: (1) Sum up your team line. (2) Sum up the first Government's arguments (3) Rebut the Opposition. Remember that while you cannot stab the 1st government in the back you should really reinforce your team line and then sum up the rest of the Government argument.

Opposition Whip. (Last speaker of the debate)

Rebut, Rebut, Rebut, Rebut, oh and sum up. You are in pole position. You have had almost an hour to develop your speech and this is a huge advantage. You should not bring new information into the debate but remember that by new information we mean new core arguments and examples. In your rebuttal you may bring in new examples, which relate directly to the points you are rebutting but you cannot make them the central plank on which your entire argument is based. A lot of last Opp speakers will deal with the Government speakers almost one at a time and this generally works quite well and lends a structure to your speech.

A lot of last Opp speakers make the mistake of just rebutting and not summing up. Ideally you should use a summary of what has been said by the opposition up to now as your rebuttal. However you should also try to have a clearly defined period of summation. Don't get carried away with your rebuttal and leave your sum up for the last 30 seconds. Remember that there are a lot of inexperienced judges out there who may not recognise that you have mixed summation and rebuttal in your speech and will, unfairly, penalise you for only spending a few seconds on sum up. Ideally aim to start your sum up of the Opp case with about 1.5 to 2 minutes left. You can use your last protected minute to sum up the entire debate and not just your speech, it may go against the textbook structure of a speech but it is accepted practice.

Key extracts from WUDC criteria

These are key sections from the Adjudication criteria of the World Universities Debating Championships and are increasingly used at British & Irish IVs and around the world.

1.4 Points of Information

- 1.4.1 Points of Information (questions directed to the member speaking) may be asked between first minute mark and the six minute mark of the members' speeches (speeches are of seven minutes duration).
- 1.4.2 To ask a Point of Information, a member should stand, place one hand on his or her head and extend the other towards the member speaking. The member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words to this effect.
- 1.4.3 The member who is speaking may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.
- 1.4.4 Points of Information should not exceed 15 seconds in length.
- 1.4.5 The member who is speaking may ask the person offering the Point of Information to sit down where the offeror has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard and understood.
- 1.4.6 Members should attempt to answer at least two Points of Information during their speech. Members should also offer Points of Information.
- 1.4.7 Points of Information should be assessed in accordance with clause 3.3.4 of these rules.
- 1.4.8 Points of Order and Points of Personal Privilege are not permitted.

1.5 Timing of the speeches

- 1.5.1 Speeches should be seven minutes in duration (this should be signalled by two strikes of the gavel). Speeches over seven minutes and 15 seconds may be penalised.
- 1.5.2 Points of Information may only be offered between the first minute mark and the six-minute mark of the speech (this period should be signalled by one strike of the gavel at the first minute and one strike at the sixth minute).

2.1 The definition

- 2.1.1 The definition should state the issue (or issues) for debate arising out of the motion and state the meaning of any terms in the motion which require interpretation.
- 2.1.2 The Prime Minister should provide the definition at the beginning of his or her speech.
- 2.1.3 The definition must:

- (a) have a clear and logical link to the motion - this means that an average reasonable person would accept the link made by the member between the motion and the definition (where there is no such link the definition is sometimes referred to as a “squirrel”);
- (b) not be self-proving - a definition is self-proving when the case is that something should or should not be done and there is no reasonable rebuttal. A definition is may also be self-proving when the case is that a certain state of affairs exists or does not exist and there is no reasonable rebuttal (these definitions are sometimes referred to as “truisms”). (c) not be time set - this means that the debate must take place in the present and that the definition cannot set the debate in the past or the future; and (d) not be place set unfairly - this means that the definition cannot restrict the debate so narrowly to a particular geographical or political location that a participant of the tournament could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the place.

2.2 Challenging the definition

- 2.2.1 The Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition if it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules. The Leader of the Opposition should clearly state that he or she is challenging the definition.
- 2.2.2 The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.

2.3 Assessing the definitional challenge

- 2.3.1 The adjudicator should determine the definition to be ‘unreasonable’ where it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules.
- 2.3.2 The onus to establish that the definition is unreasonable is on the members asserting that the definition is unreasonable.
- 2.3.3 Where the definition is unreasonable, the opposition should substitute an alternative definition that should be accepted by the adjudicator provided it is not unreasonable.
- 2.3.4 Where the definition of the Opening Government is unreasonable and an alternative definition is substituted by the Opening Opposition, the Closing Government may introduce matter which is inconsistent with the matter presented by the Opening Government and consistent with the definition of the Opening Opposition.
- 2.3.5 If the Opening Opposition has substituted a definition that is **also** unreasonable, the Closing Government may challenge the definition of the Opening Opposition and substitute an alternative definition.
- 2.3.6 If the Closing Government has substituted a definition that is **also** unreasonable (in addition to the unreasonable definitions of the Opening Government and Opening Opposition, the Closing Opposition may challenge the definition of the Closing Government and substitute an alternative definition.

World Championships Criteria

World Universities Debating Championship

World Parliamentary Debating Rules

By Ray D'Cruz

Part 1— Introduction

1.1 The format of the debate

1.1.1 The debate will consist of four teams of two persons (persons will be known as "members"), a chairperson (known as the "Speaker of the House" or "Mister/Madame Speaker" and an adjudicator or panel of adjudicators.

1.1.2 Teams will consist of the following members:

Opening Government:

"Prime Minister" or "First Government member" and

"Deputy Prime Minister" or "Second Government member";

Opening Opposition:

"Leader of the Opposition" or "First Opposition member" and

"Deputy Leader of the Opposition" or "Second Opposition member";

Closing Government:

"Member for the Government" or "Third Government member" and

"Government Whip" or "Fourth Opposition member";

Closing Opposition:

"Member for the Opposition" or "Third Opposition member" and

"Opposition Whip" or "Fourth Opposition member".

1.1.3 Members will deliver substantive speeches in the following order:

- (1) Prime Minister;
- (2) Opposition Leader;
- (3) Deputy Prime Minister;
- (4) Deputy Opposition Leader;
- (5) Member for the Government;
- (6) Member for the Opposition;
- (7) Government Whip;
- (8) Opposition Whip.

1.1.4 Members will deliver a substantive speech of seven minutes duration and should offer points of information while members of the opposing teams are speaking.

1.2 The motion

1.2.1 The motion should be unambiguously worded.

1.2.2 The motion should reflect that the World Universities Debating Championship is an international tournament.

1.2.3 The members should debate the motion in the spirit of the motion and the tournament.

1.3 Preparation

1.3.1 The debate should commence 15 minutes after the motion is announced.

1.3.2 Teams should arrive at their debate within five minutes of the scheduled starting time for that debate.

1.3.3 Members are permitted to use printed or written material during preparation and during the debate. Printed material includes books, journals, newspapers and other similar materials. The use of electronic equipment is prohibited during preparation and in the debate.

1.4 Points of Information

1.4.1 Points of Information (questions directed to the member speaking) may be asked between first minute mark and the six minute mark of the members' speeches (speeches are of seven minutes duration).

1.4.2 To ask a Point of Information, a member should stand, place one hand on his or her head and extend the other towards the member speaking. The member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words to

this effect.

1.4.3 The member who is speaking may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.

1.4.4 Points of Information should not exceed 15 seconds in length.

1.4.5 The member who is speaking may ask the person offering the Point of Information to sit down where the offeror has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard and understood.

1.4.6 Members should attempt to answer at least two Points of Information during their speech. Members should also offer Points of Information.

1.4.7 Points of Information should be assessed in accordance with clause 3.3.4 of these rules.

1.4.8 Points of Order and Points of Personal Privilege are not permitted.

1.5 Timing of the speeches

1.5.1 Speeches should be seven minutes in duration (this should be signalled by two strikes of the gavel). Speeches over seven minutes and 15 seconds may be penalised.

1.5.2 Points of Information may only be offered between the first minute mark and the six minute mark of the speech (this period should be signalled by one strike of the gavel at the first minute and one strike at the sixth minute).

1.5.3 It is the duty of the Speaker of the House to time speeches.

1.5.4 In the absence of the Speaker of the House, it is the duty of the Chair of the Adjudication panel to ensure that speeches are timed.

1.6 The adjudication

1.6.1 The debate should be adjudicated by a panel of at least three adjudicators, where this is possible.

1.6.2 At the conclusion of the debate, the adjudicators should confer and rank the teams, from first placed to last placed. (see Part 5: The Adjudication).

1.6.3 There will be verbal adjudications of the debate after the first six preliminary rounds of the tournament. The verbal adjudication should be delivered in accordance with clause 5.5 of these rules.

Part 2 — Definitions

2.1 The definition

2.1.1 The definition should state the issue (or issues) for debate arising out of the motion and state the

meaning of any terms in the motion which require interpretation.

2.1.2 The Prime Minister should provide the definition at the beginning of his or her speech.

2.1.3 The definition must:

(a) have a clear and logical link to the motion - this means that an average reasonable person would accept the link made by the member between the motion and the definition (where there is no such link the definition is sometimes referred to as a "squirrel");

(b) not be self-proving - a definition is self-proving when the case is that something should or should not be done and there is no reasonable rebuttal. A definition is may also be self-proving when the case is that a certain state of affairs exists or does not exist and there is no reasonable rebuttal (these definitions are sometimes referred to as "truisms").

(c) not be time set - this means that the debate must take place in the present and that the definition cannot set the debate in the past or the future; and

(d) not be place set unfairly - this means that the definition cannot restrict the debate so narrowly to a particular geographical or political location that a participant of the tournament could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the place.

2.2 Challenging the definition

2.2.1 The Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition if it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules. The Leader of the Opposition should clearly state that he or she is challenging the definition.

2.2.2 The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.

2.3 Assessing the definitional challenge

2.3.1 The adjudicator should determine the definition to be 'unreasonable' where it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules.

2.3.2 The onus to establish that the definition is unreasonable is on the members asserting that the definition is unreasonable.

2.3.3 Where the definition is unreasonable, the opposition should substitute an alternative definition that should be accepted by the adjudicator provided it is not unreasonable.

2.3.4 Where the definition of the Opening Government is unreasonable and an alternative definition is substituted by the Opening Opposition, the Closing Government may introduce matter which is inconsistent with the matter presented by the Opening Government and consistent with the definition of the Opening Opposition.

2.3.5 If the Opening Opposition has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable, the Closing Government may challenge the definition of the Opening Opposition and substitute an alternative definition.

2.3.6 If the Closing Government has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable (in addition to the unreasonable definitions of the Opening Government and Opening Opposition, the Closing Opposition may challenge the definition of the Closing Government and substitute an alternative definition.

Part 3 — Matter

3.1 The definition of matter

3.1.1 Matter is the content of the speech. It is the arguments a debater uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

3.1.2 Matter includes arguments and reasoning, examples, case studies, facts and any other material that attempts to further the case.

3.1.3 Matter includes positive (or substantive) material and rebuttal (arguments specifically aimed to refute the arguments of the opposing team(s)). Matter includes Points of Information.

3.2 The elements of matter

3.2.1 Matter should be relevant, logical and consistent.

3.2.2 Matter should be relevant. It should relate to the issues of the debate: positive material should support the case being presented and rebuttal should refute the material being presented by the opposing team(s). The Member should appropriately prioritise and apportion time to the dynamic issues of the debate.

3.2.3 Matter should be logical. Arguments should be developed logically in order to be clear and well-reasoned and therefore plausible. The conclusion of all arguments should support the member's case.

3.2.4 Matter should be consistent. Members should ensure that the matter they present is consistent within their speech, their team and the remainder of the members on their side of the debate (subject to clauses 2.3.4, 2.3.5 or 2.3.6 of these rules).

3.2.5 All Members should present positive matter (except the final two members in the debate) and all members should present rebuttal (except the first member in the debate). The Government Whip may choose to present positive matter.

3.2.6 All Members should attempt to answer at least two points of information during their own speech and offer points of information during opposing speeches.

3.3 Assessing matter

3.3.1 The matter presented should be persuasive. 'The elements of matter' should assist an adjudicator to assess the persuasiveness and credibility of the matter presented.

3.3.2 Matter should be assessed from the viewpoint of the average reasonable person. Adjudicators should analyse the matter presented and assess its persuasiveness, while disregarding any specialist knowledge they may have on the issue of the debate.

3.3.3 Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Debaters should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

3.3.4 Points of information should be assessed according to the effect they have on the persuasiveness of the cases of both the member answering the point of information and the member offering the point of information.

Part 4 — Manner

4.1 The definition of manner

4.1.1 Manner is the presentation of the speech. It is the style and structure a member uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

4.1.2 Manner is comprised of many separate elements. Some, but not all, of these elements are listed below.

4.2 The elements of style

4.2.1 The elements of style include eye contact, voice modulation, hand gestures, language, the use of notes and any other element which may affect the effectiveness of the presentation of the member.

4.2.2 Eye contact will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as it allows the member to appear more sincere.

4.2.3 Voice modulation will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as the debater may emphasise important arguments and keep the attention of the audience. This includes the pitch, tone, and volume of the member's voice and the use of pauses.

4.2.4 Hand gestures will generally assist a member to emphasise important arguments. Excessive hand movements may however be distracting and reduce the attentiveness of the audience to the arguments.

4.2.5 Language should be clear and simple. Members who use language which is too verbose or confusing may detract from the argument if they lose the attention of the audience.

4.2.6 The use of notes is permitted, but members should be careful that they do not rely on their notes too much and detract from the other elements of manner.

4.3 The elements of structure

4.3.1 The elements of structure include the structure of the speech of the member and the structure of the speech of the team.

4.3.2 The matter of the speech of each member must be structured. The member should organise his or her matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation. The substantive speech of each members should:

(a) include: an introduction, conclusion and a series of arguments; and

(b) be well-timed in accordance with the time limitations and the need to prioritise and apportion time to matter.

4.3.3 The matter of the team must be structured. The team should organise their matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation. The team should:

(a) contain a consistent approach to the issues being debated; and

(b) allocate positive matter to each member where both members of the team are introducing positive matter; and

4.4 Assessing manner

4.4.1 Adjudicators should assess the elements of manner together in order to determine the overall effectiveness of the member's presentation. Adjudicators should assess whether the member's presentation is assisted or diminished by their manner.

4.4.2 Adjudicators should be aware that at a World Championship, there are many styles which are

appropriate, and that they should not discriminate against a member simply because the manner would be deemed 'inappropriate Parliamentary debating' in their own country.

4.4.3 Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Members should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, language (subject to Rule 4.2.4), sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

Part 5 — The Adjudication

5.1 The role of the adjudicator

5.1.1 The adjudicator must:

- (a) Confer upon and discuss the debate with the other adjudicators;
- (b) Determine the rankings of the teams;
- (c) Determine the team grades;
- (d) Determine the speaker marks;
- (e) Provide a verbal adjudication to the members; and
- (f) Complete any documentation required by the tournament.

5.1.2 The adjudication panel should attempt to agree on the adjudication of the debate. Adjudicators should therefore confer in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect

5.1.3 Adjudicators should acknowledge that adjudicators on a panel may form different or opposite views of the debate. Adjudicators should therefore attempt to base their conclusions on these rules in order to limit subjectivity and to provide a consistent approach to the assessment of debates.

5.2 Ranking teams

5.2.1 Teams should be ranked from first place to last place. First placed teams should be awarded three points, second placed teams should be awarded two points, third placed teams should be awarded one point and fourth placed teams should be awarded zero points.

5.2.2 Teams may receive zero points where they fail to arrive at the debate more than five minutes after the scheduled time for debate.

5.2.3 Teams may receive zero points where the adjudicators unanimously agree that the Member has (or Members have) harassed another debater on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, sexual preference or disability.

5.2.4 Adjudicators should confer upon team rankings. Where a unanimous decision cannot be reached after conferral, the decision of the majority will determine the rankings. Where a majority decision cannot be reached, the Chair of the panel of adjudicators will determine the rankings.

5.3 Grading and marking the teams

5.3.1 The panel of adjudicators should agree upon the grade that each team is to be awarded. Each adjudicator may then mark the teams at their discretion but within the agreed grade. Where there is a member of the panel who has dissented in the ranking of the teams, that adjudicator will not need to

agree upon the team grades and may complete their scoresheet at their own discretion.

5.3.2 Team grades and marks should be given the following interpretation:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Marks</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
A	180-200	Excellent to flawless. The standard you would expect to see from a team at the Semi Final / Grand Final level of the tournament. The team has many strengths and few, if any, weaknesses.
B	160-179	Above average to very good. The standard you would expect to see from a team at the finals level or in contention to make to the finals. The team has clear strengths and some minor weaknesses.
C	140-159	Average. The team has strengths and weaknesses in roughly equal proportions.
D	120-139	Poor to below average. The team has clear problems and some minor strengths.
E	100-119	Very poor. The team has fundamental weaknesses and few, if any, strengths.

5.4 Marking the members

5.4.1 After the adjudicators have agreed upon the grade that each team is to be awarded, each adjudicator may mark the individual members at their discretion but must ensure that the aggregate points of the team members is within the agreed grade for that team.

5.4.2 Individual members' marks should be given the following interpretation:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Marks</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
A	90-100	Excellent to flawless. The standard of speech you would expect to see from a speaker at the Semi Final / Grand Final level of the tournament. This speaker has many strengths and few, if any, weaknesses.
B	80-89	Above average to very good. The standard you would expect to see from a speaker at the finals level or in contention to make to the finals. This speaker has clear strengths and some minor weaknesses.
C	70-79	Average. The speaker has strengths and weaknesses and roughly equal proportions.
D	60-69	Average. The speaker has strengths and weaknesses and roughly equal proportions.

E	50-59	Very poor. This speaker has fundamental weaknesses and few, if any, strengths.
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5.5 Verbal adjudications

5.5.1 At the conclusion of the conferral, the adjudication panel should provide a verbal adjudication of the debate.

5.5.2 The verbal adjudication should be delivered by the Chair of the adjudication panel, or where the Chair dissents, by a member of the adjudication panel nominated by the Chair of the panel.

5.5.3 The verbal adjudication should:

- (a) identify the order in which the teams were ranked
- (b) explain the reasons for the rankings of team, ensuring that each team is referred to in this explanation; and
- (c) provide constructive comments to individual members where the adjudication panel believes this is necessary.

5.5.4 The verbal adjudication should not exceed 10 minutes.

5.5.5 The members must not harass the adjudicators following the verbal adjudication.

5.5.6 The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the verbal adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational.

5.5.4 The verbal adjudication should not exceed 10 minutes.

5.5.5 The members must not harass the adjudicators following the verbal adjudication.

5.5.6 The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the verbal adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational.

Tab Sheets “What the judges get”

Meanings of Grades & Marks

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Marks</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
A	90-100	Excellent to flawless. The standard of speech you would expect to see from a speaker at the Grand Final level of the tournament. This speaker has many strengths and few, if any, weaknesses.
B	80-89	Above average to very good. The standard you would expect to see from a speaker at the semi-finals level or in contention to make to the semi-finals. This speaker has clear strengths and some minor weaknesses.
C	70-79	Average. The speaker has strengths and weaknesses and roughly equal proportions.
D	60-69	Average. The speaker has strengths and weaknesses and roughly equal proportions.
E	50-59	Very poor. This speaker has fundamental weaknesses and few, if any, strengths.

Intervarsity Speed Ballot

Round:

Venue:

Motion:

Chair:

Please use the recommended marking system. Otherwise the tab system will not work

1st Government

Team:

Team Points: _____ (0, 1, 2 or 3)

1st Opposition

Team:

Team Points: _____ (0, 1, 2 or 3)

2nd Government

Team:

Team Points: _____ (0, 1, 2 or 3)

2nd Opposition

Team:

Team Points: _____ (0, 1, 2 or 3)

Some Motions

List of Past motions

Sydney 00

Final

This house believes Marx would have approved of the internet.

MANILA 99

First Rounds

1. This house supports the bombing of Iraq.
2. This house believes globalization marginalises the poor.
3. This house believes the father should be present at conception.
4. This house believes ASEAN should rally behind Anwar.
5. This house believes art should be free from censorship.
6. This house believes democracy is the best way forward for Russia.
7. This house believes religious leaders should listen to opinion polls.
8. This house would rehabilitate criminals.
9. This house believes that federalism will not work for Europe

Octo Final: This house believes that old dictators should not have to face the music

Qtr Final: This house believes that Media is more Powerful than the Government

Semi Final: This House would get US bases out of Asia

Final: This house believes Nethanyahu is the biggest obstacle to peace in Israel

Masters:

Semi-Finals: This House believes that Child Labour is necessary in developing countries

First Round: This house would support global nuclear disarmament

ATHENS 98

First Rounds

This house believes in Economic policy before social policy

This house would look to the East

This house would put an immediate ban on land mines

This house believes he who controls information technology controls the world

This house believes that the glass is half full

This house believes that marriage is an outdated institution

This house believes that environmentalism is mostly hot air

This house believes that liberty should be rationed

This house would protect the rights of smokers

Qtr Final : This house would give national treasures back to its people

Final: This house believes that humanitarianism is a first world affectation

STELLENBOSCH 97

First Rounds

1. This house believes that developing nations need strong dictatorship.
2. This house would legalize prostitution.
3. This house has an unhealthy obsession with sport.

4. This house believes that the U.S. is more sinned against than sinning.
5. This house would let the information superhighway run free.
6. This house believes that fanaticism works.
7. This house would allow same-sex couples to adopt children.
8. This house will regret the trade bloc.
9. This house believes that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is a weak response.

Octo Final: This house supports privatization

Qtr Final: This house would adopt quotas.

Semi Final: This house believes that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.

Final: This house would legalize all drugs.

CORK 96

First Rounds

1. This house would put pragmatism before its principles.
2. This house would test nuclear weapons.
3. This house would rebuild the Berlin Wall.
4. This house would sacrifice economic growth for the good of the environment.
5. This house would give racists a platform.
6. This house would make the blood of the patriarchy run in the streets. (enforced humour round)
7. This house would heed its priests.
8. This house believes that developing nations should adopt Western feminism.
9. This house would in trial by jury.

Octo Final: This house would reject big government.

Qtr Final: This house believes that the melting pot has failed.

Semi Final: This house would let the language die.

Final: This house believes that strong dictatorship is better than weak democracy.

PRINCETON 95

First Rounds

1. This House would plan for peace by preparing for war.
2. This House has more to fear than to hope from genetic engineering.
3. This House would open its doors to the world.
4. This House believes that the separation of church and state has gone too far.
5. This House believes that the United Nations belongs on the ash-heap of history.
6. This House believes that American culture is an oxymoron. (enforced humour round)
7. This House believes that capitalism is a dead end.
8. This House believes economic sanctions should not be used to influence domestic policy.
9. This House believes that the government that governs least, governs best.

Octo Final: This House supports the statement, "Yankee Go Home!"

MELBOURNE 94

First Rounds

1. This house believes that right is more important than peace.
2. This House believes that political correctness is the new McCarthyism.
3. This House believes that space exploration can no longer be justified.

4. This House believes that Islam has had a bad press.
5. This House believes that the blood of East Timor is on Australia's hands.
6. This House believes that there is in this age a dearth of heroes.
7. This House believes that feminism should give way to multiculturalism.
8. This House believes that the West will regret free trade.
9. This House believes that cricket is to sport as Rolls-Royce is to motorcars.

(enforced humour round)

Octo Final: This House believes that the state of the union is stuffed.

Qtr Final: This House would support affirmative action.

Semi Final: This House believes that the Pope should get married.

Final: This House believes that Machiavelli is the way to go.

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First Rounds

1. This house would support positive discrimination.
2. This house would support the right to strike.
3. This house believes that sex kills romance.
4. This house believes that freedom of the individual is a myth.
5. Short men cast long shadows while the sun sets. (enforced humour round)
6. This house reveres the memory of the British Empire.
7. This house would out-closet homosexuals.
8. This house rejects consensus.
9. This house would abolish capital punishment.

Octo Final: The problems of the nation are better solved by the private sector than by government.

Qtr Final: This house would give land for peace.

Semi Final: A Federated Europe will protect the weak from the strong.

Final: Nationalism is a hangover from history.

Summary

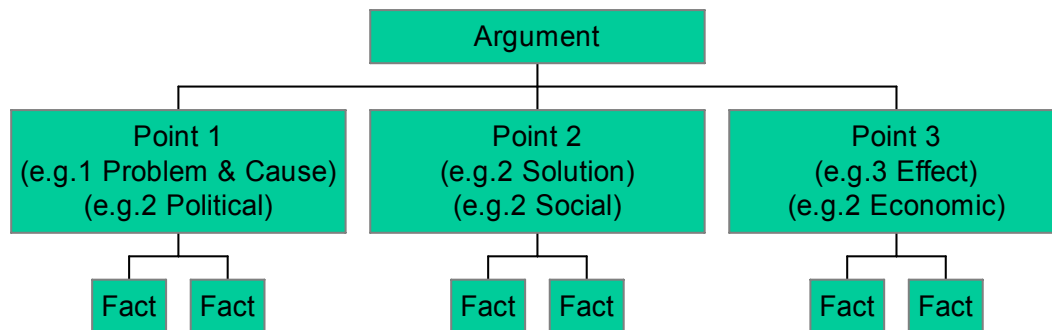
So after all that how do you apply it in 15 min to prepare your speech.

Be Prepared

Have a broad general knowledge of events issues etc BUT be sure to prepare 3 or 4 cases in advance for when you are defining “Open” motions. This should give you an edge in the debate as you will be talking about something you know well.

Have an argument.

Don't base your case on loads of facts and try to work towards an argument. Think of the argument/Core-team-line first, then 3 main points to back it up and then the facts to back those up



Analyse yourself & others

(Thanks to Mark Dowling for this)

	<u>Gov Case (4 steps)</u>	<u>Opp Case (pick one & attack)</u>
Problem	There is a problem	The problem doesn't exist
Cause	This is the cause	That's not the right cause
Solution	Here is our solution	The solution isn't workable
Effect	And it's effect	It won't have those effects

This is one way to give structure to a government speech. It is also a highly effective method for the opposition to look at the Government case and say it falls down for any of the above four reasons (Opp doesn't have to attack each area usually just one will do)

Know your role

1st Gov: Define & Outline	1st Opp: Rebut, Alternative, (Re-Define)
2nd Gov: Defend, Explain & Rebut	2nd Opp: Rebut & Defend
3rd Gov: Backup, Extend, & Rebut	3rd Opp: Rebut, Backup &
4th Gov: Explain, Sum up & Rebut	4th Opp: Rebut, Rebut, sum up