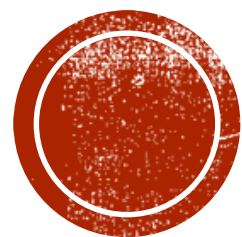


INTRODUCTION TO BP DEBATE

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THE BP FORMAT





The structure of a British Parliamentary debate

The format we use almost invariably at the Union is the British Parliamentary (BP) format, which will be laid out below. It is modelled loosely on the debating style used in the House of Commons. The most unique feature of BP is that there are four teams in every debate, each team composed of two speakers. Two teams (four speakers) argue in favour of a policy while two teams (four speakers) argue against it. Each debater speaks only once and the sides (proposition and opposition) take alternating turns giving speeches, which usually last for five or seven minutes (it varies across competitions).



BASIC PRINCIPLES

Your team's job is:

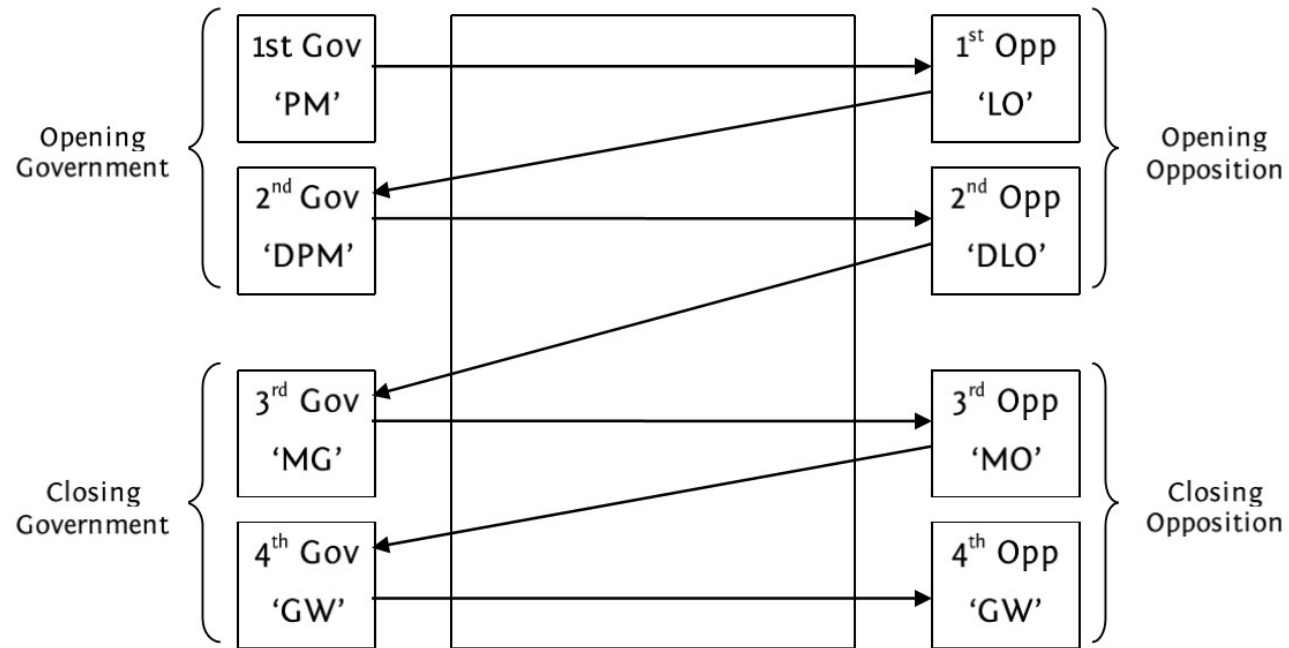
- The motion ought to be supported/opposed(depending on your side)
- Your team, as opposed to the other team on your side, has provided the best reason why the motion should be supported or opposed

Two Main Weapons to Convince

- Substantive Arguments: Argument for or against an argument or an idea
- Rebuttals: Criticism of another side's argument



Debaters typically compete around a table. This is what the layout of a table looks like ('Government' is used interchangeably with 'Proposition' in debating):



- 4 Teams
- 1 speakers per time
- 15 minutes preparation time
- 7 minutes speaking time
- The First and Last minute of a speech is protected- NO POIs
- POI-Less than 15s



ROLES OF THE TEAMS (OVERVIEW)

Opening Government:

- Defines the terms of the debate
- Opens the case for the Government
- Opposes the case of the Opening Opposition when it is presented

Closing Government:

- Extends the Government case
- Opposes the cases of the Opening and Closing Opposition teams
- Summarizes the debate

Opening Opposition:

- Opposes the case of the Opening Government
- Opens the case for the Opposition

Closing Opposition:

- Extends the Opposition case
- Opposes the cases of the Opening and Closing Opposition teams
- Summarizes the debate



Side Government (or 'Government Bench')	Side Opposition (or 'Opposition Bench')
<p>Team: Opening Government 1st Speaker: 'First Government' or 'Prime Minister'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Defines</i> the debate, translating the motion into a concrete policy or idea • <i>Argues</i> two or three contentions supporting why the policy ought to be enacted 	<p>Team: Opening Opposition 2nd Speaker: 'First Opposition' or 'Leader of the Opposition'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rebuts</i> (points out the flaws in) the Prime Minister's arguments • <i>Argues</i> independently, introducing new concepts that may not have been brought up in the Prime Minister's speech
<p>Team: Opening Government 3rd Speaker: 'Second Government' or 'Deputy Prime Minister'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rebuts</i> the Leader of Opposition's arguments • <i>Argues</i> independently, introducing new concepts that may not have been brought up in the Prime Minister's speech. 	<p>Team: First Opposition 4th Speaker: 'Second Opposition' or 'Deputy Leader of the Opposition'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rebuts</i> the entire proposition's arguments • <i>Argues</i> independently, introducing new concepts that may not have been brought up in the Leader of Opposition's speech



Prime Minister (Opening Government):

- Defines the resolution
- Introduces the Government case

Deputy Prime Minister (Opening Government):

- Rebuts what LO said
- Continues Opening Government case

Leader of the Opposition (Opening Opposition):

- Rebuts what PM said
- Introduces Opening Opposition case
- *If there's going to be a definitional challenge, the LO must mention it in their speech, otherwise all the other teams in the round must accept the original definition (See: Challenging the Definition)*

Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Opening Opposition):

- Rebuts what DPM said
- Continues Opening Opposition case



<p>Team: Second Proposition 5th Speaker: 'Third Government' or 'Member of Government'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extends</i> the debate, offering new arguments and analysis in support of the Government • <i>Refutes</i> any outstanding opposition points 	<p>Team Position: Second Opposition 6th Speaker: 'Third Opposition' or 'Member of the Opposition'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extends</i> the debate, offering new arguments and analysis in support of the Government • <i>Refutes</i> any outstanding proposition points, especially their extension
<p>Team Position: Second Proposition 7th Speaker: 'Government Whip'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summarises</i> the debate, offering a biased summary of the issues involved and showing why the proposition deserve to win. 	<p>Team Position: Second Opposition 8th Speaker 'Opposition Whip'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summarises</i> the debate, offering a biased summary of the issues involved and showing why the opposition deserve to win.

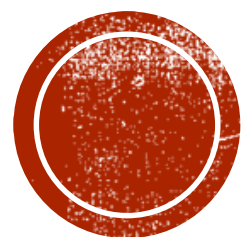


WHAT IS THE RESULT?

- At the end of each debate, the teams will be ranked from first place to fourth place. Each ranking has a point value associated with it. The common point values used are as follows:

- First Place = 3 points
- Second Place = 2 points
- Third Place = 1 point
- Fourth Place = 0 points





MOTIONS



POLICY DEBATES

- The motion would be like THW do something
- E.g. THW Ban zoos
- E.g. THW Abolish the Death Penalty



VALUE JUDGEMENT DEBATES

- The motion would be like: THBT something; THS something
- E.g. THBT OBOR has done more harm than good
- E.g. THBT Parents in China should no longer adopt the 'Tiger Parenting Strategy' in fostering the growth and development of their children



COMPARATIVE DEBATES

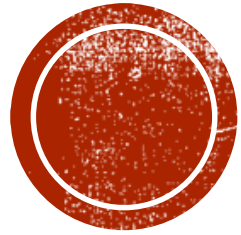
- The motion would be like: THR something (Regret Motions)
- E.g. THR the Selfie Culture
- E.g. THR an isolationist America that has become less inclined on leading a Liberal World Order



STAKEHOLDER DEBATES

- The Motion would be like: TH, as somebody, will do something
- E.g. TH, as China, will cease all support towards DPRK.





HOW TO MAKE AN ARGUMENT



THE PEEL STRUCTURE

- Point: State what you will say
- Explanation: Say why what you say will happen, how this will happen, etc
- Example: Give an example
- Link: Why this matters



NOW

- At this point one should illustrate **their version of the "status quo"** or describe the situation as it is now. The speaker should describe the status quo in a way that is plausible, but in Government it should also be described in such a way to provide **a reason to act or an imperative**. E.g. 'Currently, the ban on cannabis creates a huge black market which funds criminal organisations.'

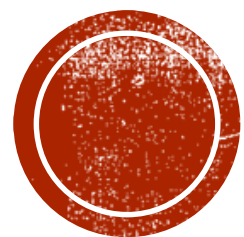
ACTION

- This stage is where a speaker should lay out the Government's policy, or a part of that policy. E.g. 'We propose to legalise cannabis.'

THEN

- This is the most crucial stage of your argumentation. A speaker must identify and explain the result of implementing their proposal.
- The most important part of the "Then" stage is to identify the comparative. In order to do this, two things must be noted. First, how is the result different from the status quo? Second, in what meaningful way is the result better (in Government) or worse (in Opposition)? E.g. 'If we legalise cannabis, there is no reason to buy it from criminal dealers, the black market disappears and organised crime is reduced'





BURDEN OF PROOF



	Side Government	Side Opposition
Problem:	(Exclusively of the debate, requires Characterization) 1. Severity of the Problem(Performance) 2. Identify Victim(Performance) 3. Reasons of the Problem(Root Cause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal of Gov will not be achieved by their policy • Problem will not be solved, since the root cause is missed(Not the real reason)
Policy:	The total mechanism	Policy is unclear/Problematic
Moral:	Justification to the Proposal	Morally unjustified
Impact:	Our Motion ensures significant benefit	Harm after passing the motion-Backlash
Alternatives:	Why is this the best way to achieve the Goal <u>#GOAL: Solving the Problem and bringing benefits/eliminate harms</u>	Better Alternative



- Burdens of Proof

-> Why argument can win the debate/Related to the Motion

- a. Principally Justified

§ (Gov Allow/Have to do sth)

- b. Stakeholders

- c. Efficiency

§ Policy has to work

- d. Trade off

§ Comparison

