

Socio-Technical Debate

Problem Statement:

The competition will consist of 2 rounds –

ROUND 1

Theme:

Space technology and Exploration

At the centre of space exploration beats a heart of incredible technological marvels and innovation that inspires scientists and engineers to reach for the stars. Space technology includes spacecraft, satellites, space stations, and support infrastructure, equipment, and procedures. Space is such a novel environment that attempting to work in it requires new tools and techniques. Many common everyday services such as weather forecasting, remote sensing, GPS systems, satellite television, and some long distance communications systems critically rely on space infrastructure. New technologies originating with or accelerated by space-related endeavours are often subsequently exploited in other economic activities.

Event Type: Conventional Debate

Rules:

- Each institute can send a maximum of 3 teams.
- Motion will be released 10 days prior to the event.
- Three topics will be announced in order to avoid repetition of the same facts. The teams can pick any one out of the following topics:
 1. This house believes that space exploration is a waste of resources.
 2. This house would privatise space agencies.
 3. This house believes that Area 51 is linked to extra-terrestrial life forms.
 - Participants are free define the house according to their wishes.
 - Each speaker will get 3+1 minutes. (3 minutes to speak and 1 minute to answer interjections)

- There can be just one interjection per speaker.

Judging Criteria:

Participants will be judged on the following areas:

- General impression
- Rebuttal
- Use of facts
- Logic
- Understanding of topic
- Delivery of topic
- Organisation of arguments

Team Specifications:

A team may consist of a maximum of 2 participants. Students from different educational institutes can form a team.

Eligibility:

All students with a valid identity card of respective educational institutes are eligible to participate.

ROUND 2

Theme:

IT and Sustainability

About the Theme: Sustainability in an enterprise can mean small adjustments or a major reorientation. Information technology (IT) in itself a big part of the problem. Strategists should consider how all goals, from a reduction in electricity usage to carbon neutrality, can best be supported by IT systems, and how technology will play an integral part in the firm's long-term strategy to reduce its carbon footprint.

Event Type:

2 on 2 Interrogation Debate

Rules:

- Each team qualifying to the second round of the competition will be paired with another team by picking of chits.
- The first speaker from the proposing team will deliver their speech, then the first speaker from the opposing team will deliver their arguments. This will be followed by the speeches from the second speaker of each team.
- After that, the floor will be suspended for a minute and then the opposition calls any speaker from side proposition to take the hot seat. This is followed by interrogation of the speaker for around 2 mins (Follow up questions are allowed during this round).
- This goes on for all the four speakers and then, one member from each team delivers a closing statement for two minutes.
- Example of topics that will be given:
 - (1.) This house believes that multinational companies should be charged hefty fines for disposing toxic wastes in developing nations.
 - (2.) This house believes that the world need more potato chips than IC chips.
 - (3.) This house believes that workers in factories dealing with toxic substances should be given a percentage of certain profits.

Judging Criteria:

Participants will be judged on the following areas:

- Background and context
- Efficacy - based on the topic speaker is talking about
- Strategy - structure of debate
- Rebuttal
- Ethical issues
- Delivery of the topic

Team Specifications:

A team may consist of a maximum of 2 participants. Students from different educational institutes can form a team.

Eligibility:

All students with a valid identity card of respective educational institutes are eligible to participate.