

# DebGraph: Graph Based Debate Evaluation and Feedback

**Priya Pitre**  
Virginia Tech  
priyapitre@vt.edu

**Joshua Flashner**  
Virginia Tech  
jflashner@vt.edu

**Prayash Joshi**  
Virginia Tech  
prayash@vt.edu

**Evar Jones**  
Virginia Tech  
jevar@vt.edu

## Abstract

The evaluation of debates requires a nuanced understanding of argument structure, factual accuracy, and persuasion. While prior methods in computational debate analysis have advanced in assessing individual dimensions of argument quality, they lack a holistic framework to integrate these dimensions effectively. We propose DebGraph, a graph-based system that combines the structural representation of Knowledge Graphs (KGs) with the contextual reasoning capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs) to deliver multidimensional debate evaluation and feedback. By leveraging heterogeneous graph structures and iterative refinement techniques, our system captures the interplay of arguments across rounds of debate, evaluating their coherence, persuasiveness, and factual integrity. Experiments on the DebateArt and BP-Competition datasets demonstrate that DebGraph outperforms state-of-the-art models in score-based evaluations and feedback generation. The system paves the way for enhanced applications in education, public discourse, and AI-assisted moderation.

## 1 Introduction

The ability to evaluate and analyze debates is increasingly important in the digital era, where arguments are generated and consumed at unprecedented scales across diverse contexts, from academic discourse to online social platforms. Debate evaluation systems, which assess argument quality, coherence, and persuasiveness, have traditionally relied on hand-crafted features or statistical models. However, advances in machine learning, particularly in large language models (LLM) and knowledge graphs (KG), offer transformative potential for developing multidimensional frameworks that integrate structural and contextual reasoning.

Recent developments in argumentation and discourse analysis emphasize the role of heterogeneous graph structures in capturing argument relationships. Studies such as those by Guan et al.

(Guan et al., 2023) highlight the effectiveness of semantics-aware graph representation learning in preserving both lexical and structural relevance in argument mining tasks. Similarly, Bhatia (Bhatia, 2023) demonstrated the use of heterogeneous graphs for policy-oriented debate structuring, enabling a more nuanced understanding of argument dynamics.

LLMs have also shown remarkable capabilities in reasoning tasks, yet challenges persist in ensuring robustness and consistency when applied to real-world debate scenarios. Wachsmuth et al. (Wachsmuth et al., 2023) proposed new benchmarks for evaluating argument quality in LLM outputs, focusing on alignment with human reasoning. Although these works provide significant insights, they lack the integration of graph-based techniques to address the inherent complexity of argument structures and relations.

Efforts to bridge the gap between graph-based frameworks and LLMs have shown promise. Shang and Huang (Shang and Huang, 2024) explored the interplay between generative models and graph analytics for complex argument representation, while Khan et al. (Khan et al., 2024) investigated debate settings as a test for truthfulness and persuasiveness in LLMs. However, existing approaches tend to focus on isolated aspects of debate evaluation, such as argument quality or semantic relations, without providing a comprehensive multidimensional framework adaptable to diverse contexts.

This paper introduces a novel debate evaluation framework that synergizes KGs and LLMs to deliver holistic, multidimensional feedback across varied real-world debate scenarios. By leveraging the structural power of structured complex graph relationship and the contextual understanding of LLMs, our approach captures complex argument relationships, evaluates debates on multiple dimensions, and provides actionable feedback. Unlike existing systems, our framework extends beyond

traditional metrics, offering broader applicability to domains such as op-eds, social media debates, and structured political discussions.

## 1.1 Contributions

The primary contributions of this paper are as follows:

- We present a novel methodology that integrates KGs and LLMs for multidimensional debate evaluation across diverse contexts.
- We conducted extensive experiments that demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach in capturing the diversity, coherence, and persuasiveness of arguments in different real-world scenarios.

## 2 Related Works

Argumentation has long been a key area of focus in natural language processing (NLP) and computational linguistics, with significant strides made in understanding and evaluating debates. Feng and Hirst (2011) presented foundational work on argument mining, focusing on the identification and extraction of argument structures from text. Their research paved the way for integrating linguistic features with computational models (Feng and Hirst, 2011). Recent research has highlighted the growing interplay between graph-based models and argument mining, showcasing the advantages of using structured graph relationships for richer and more effective argument analysis.

Zhang et al. (2023) explored the potential of graph representation learning for argument mining, identifying critical issues such as cascading error propagation and how graph structures mitigate these challenges (Zhang et al., 2023). Similarly, Ruggeri et al. (2021) introduced tree-constrained graphs to capture sentence-level dependencies, emphasizing the structural nuances essential for effective argument mining (Ruggeri et al., 2021).

Knowledge graphs have emerged as an essential tool in the creation and visualization of arguments. Al Khatib et al. demonstrated how knowledge graphs enhance argument diversity and richness (Khatib et al., 2021). Another study by Plenz et al. employed Neo4J-based graphs to visualize argument structures effectively, emphasizing their utility in deliberation analysis (Plenz et al., 2024). This body of work underscores the potential of graph-based frameworks in capturing complex argument

relationships, such as effect relations, concepts, and relation types.

In debate evaluation, Potash et al. (2017) developed an RNN model aimed at maximizing audience favorability, paving the way for computational approaches to debate winner prediction (Potash and Rumshisky, 2017). Ruiz-Dolz et al. (2022) proposed an argument graph methodology that constructs argument acceptability semantics using Roberta embeddings and employs MLPs for binary classification of debate outcomes (Ruiz-Dolz et al., 2022). Although effective, these approaches predate the transformative impact of LLMs.

Liang et al. (2024) introduced a novel architecture leveraging LLMs for multidimensional debate judgment in British Parliamentary debates. Their framework integrates chronological argument analysis, advancing the scope of debate outcome prediction beyond binary metrics (Liang et al., 2024). Mou et al. focuses narrowly on political debate settings using a unified framework that integrates local and global knowledge via knowledge graphs. Their approach demonstrates the potential of LLMs in complex political contexts (Mou et al., 2023).

These studies collectively highlight the intersection of graph-based methods and argumentation, forming the foundation for innovative applications in debate evaluation and feedback generation. However, current methods often lack the ability to holistically evaluate debates, particularly in diverse real-world contexts such as op-eds, social media discussions, and presidential debates. This presents an opportunity to integrate LLMs and exploit relationships within a graph structure to develop more generalizable debate evaluation systems.

## 3 Methods

We explain the methodology for the generation of the graph, scoring system and winner determination in this section. The detailed architecture for our work can be found in Figure 1.

### 3.1 Dataset Preparation

We utilized the DebateArt PanelBench dataset, which contains structured debate information including motions, individual debater speeches, and ground truth winner annotations. The dataset captures 1v1 debates across a variety of topics, providing a rich source of argumentation data. Debates were processed to extract motion-specific arguments, categorizing them into components such

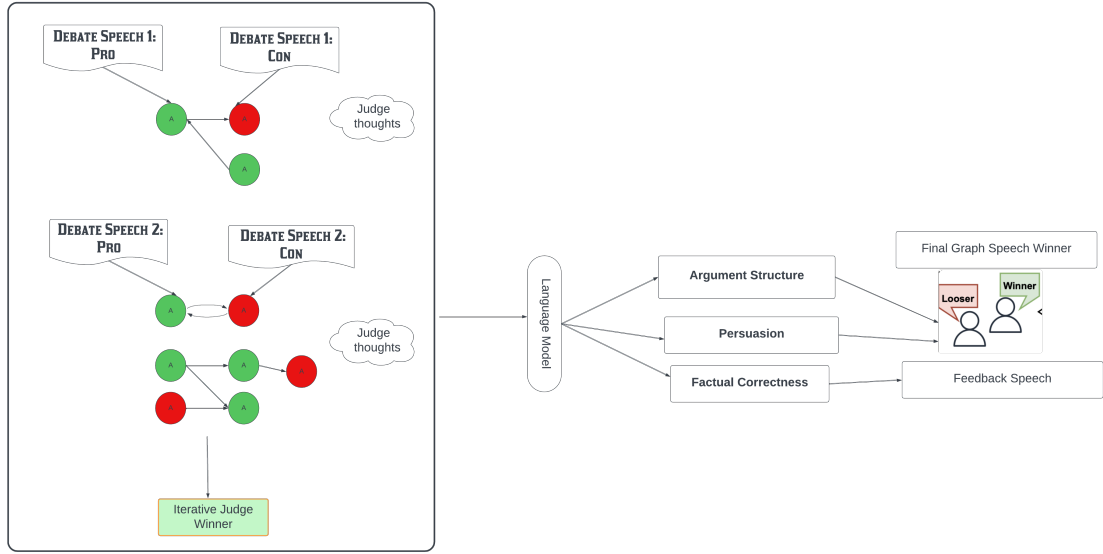


Figure 1: Overall Architecture: In Step 1, we create one graph for both sides of the debate. In Step 2, we use our scoring system to score both sides on various parameters. In Step 3, we determine the winner of the debate using the graph and our scoring system.

as claims, premises, and rebuttals. This preprocessing step enabled structured representation and downstream analysis.

### 3.2 Graph Generation

A graph-based approach was employed to represent debate arguments, using GPT-4o for the generation and refinement of scene graphs. The process involved the following steps:

- **Isolate Speeches:** For each round of debate the pro- and con-side speeches are extracted from the debate data and an empty Pydantic scene graph object is initialized for the debate graph.
- **Initial Scene Graph Creation:** GPT-4o is prompted to generate an initial scene graph as a JSON string for the pro side debater’s first speech, which is then converted into a Pydantic object. The graphs included objects, attributes, and relationships relevant to the core arguments, constrained by standard debate terminology such as claims, premises, rebuttals, and first principles. The agent is instructed to derive each node and edge directly from the debaters’ speech content. The full prompt for graph generation including the required constraints is available in figure 5.
- **Ensure Compliance:** Whenever a scene graph is generated, its compliance with the Pydantic object attributes is checked to ensure it is a valid graph. If the generated text is not in a valid graph format, GPT-4o is prompted again until a valid generation occurs.
- **Iterative Refinement:** Counterfactual arguments are then generated using prompts 6 and 7 with the same constraints as listed above and incorporated into the scene graph. For each round, GPT-4o adds to the graph by merging the newly generated counterfactual elements with the existing graph structure, ensuring continuity and evolution of argument representation over the course of the debate.
- **Judge Annotation:** A virtual judge maintains a history of thought processes and provides direct predictions of the winner at each refinement stage without relying on scoring metrics.

This iterative process yields a comprehensive representation of debate arguments, capturing their inherent logical structure and the back-and-forth relationship between the pro and con debaters. The detailed process for debate graph generation is shown in Algorithm 1 and all prompts can be viewed in Appendix C.

---

**Algorithm 1** Debate graph generation algorithm.

---

**Require:** Debate Speeches

**Ensure:** Direct Winner, Scene Graph

```
1: Initialize Variables:
2:  $hist \leftarrow []$ 
3:  $T \leftarrow \text{topic}$ 
4:  $SG, CG \leftarrow \text{Scene Graph, Counter Graph}$ 
5: Initialize Functions:
6:  $GG, GJ \leftarrow \text{Generate Graph, Gen. Judge}$ 
7:  $GPC \leftarrow \text{Gen. Pro Counter}$ 
8:  $GCC \leftarrow \text{Gen. Con Counter}$ 
9:  $MG \leftarrow \text{Merge Graphs}$ 
10: for  $(PS, CS)$  in Speech Pairs do
11:   if first round then
12:      $SG \leftarrow GG(T, PS, hist)$ 
13:   else
14:      $CG \leftarrow GPC(T, PS, SG, hist)$ 
15:      $SG \leftarrow MG(SG, CG)$ 
16:   end if
17:    $CG \leftarrow GCC(T, CS, SG, hist)$ 
18:    $SG \leftarrow MG(SG, CG)$ 
19:    $dw, thought \leftarrow GJ(T, SG, hist)$ 
20:    $hist.append(thought)$ 
21: end for
22: return  $dw, SG$ 
```

---

### 3.3 Score Comparison

The second phase involved quantitative evaluation of arguments based on three metrics: factual accuracy, persuasion, and argument structure. These metrics were computed as follows:

- **Factual Accuracy:** Each argument was assessed for factual correctness by querying the model to provide a binary label (true or false) along with a confidence score. The scores were normalized to a [0,1] range by multiplying the binary label and confidence score. (Tian et al., 2023) showed how asking a model for its confidence often results in a more explainable and accurate output. We don't use an external fact-checker, or connect the model to google because we need our judge to serve the role of an actual judge in a debate, who would just serve as a "common knowledge" fact checker.
- **Persuasion Score:** For rebuttal pairs in the graph, the model was asked which argument was more persuasive based on contextual guidelines derived from a debate judging

handbook. This binary strategy is used in multiple Argumentation papers to find which side is more persuasive (Gretz et al., 2019; Joshi et al., 2023). The winning argument in each pair was assigned a normalized persuasion score.

- **Argument Structure:** A structural score was assigned to claims that were supported by premises or rebuttals. Sides got points for each claim that had a supporting premise, and for each rebuttal to the opposing side's claim. This is to give teams credit for expanding on their claims and responding to the other side respectively. The total structural score was normalized for consistency across debates.

### 3.4 Feedback Generation

For factual accuracy and persuasion, the model was also prompted to give a max of 250 word feedback. For factual accuracy, this was restricted to facts the model thought was incorrect, and for persuasion, and overall feedback was given to both sides, comparing which side was better and why. This detailed feedback, along with a compressed 500 word feedback was given to the user. The compressed feedback was created by prompting the model to summarize the key findings of the original feedback.

The scores from these metrics were aggregated to determine the overall performance of each debater from 0-3. This aggregation provided a quantitative basis for winner determination and informed the feedback generation process. The detailed algorithm for the scoring process is shown in Algorithm 2.

### 3.5 Winner Determination and Feedback Generation

The debate winner was determined based on the combined scores from the above metrics. Feedback was generated to provide detailed insights into the factual accuracy, persuasiveness, and structural validity of each argument. For closely contested debates, additional feedback highlighted the competitive nature of the results.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Baseline Comparisons

We evaluated the performance of our system against several baselines, including GPT-3.5, GPT-

Model	DebateArt		BP-Competition
	SC RMSE ↓	DP RMSE ↓	Accuracy ↑
GPT-3.5	69.24	63.24	17.2
GPT-3.5/COT	63.4	62.66	20.6
GPT-4	55.23	44.7	46.26
Chronological	48.61	48.7	30.30
Dimensional	44.91	45.01	12.12
NonIterative	44.18	44.03	36.36
Debatrrix	42.21	<b>41.75</b>	51.52
Ours	<b>40.31</b>	43.61	<b>57.89</b>

Table 1: Results Table. Best score is shown in bold. Lower is better for RMSE.

3.5 with Chain-of-Thought (CoT) reasoning, GPT-4, and Debatrrix (a state-of-the-art system for winner prediction without feedback). The results in table 1 show that our method is comparable to existing SOTA methods on the DebateArt dataset, achieving marginally better RMSE on score comparison tasks while slightly trailing on direct prediction tasks.

#### 4.2 Performance on DebateArt Dataset

Our method demonstrated competitive results in the DebateArt dataset:

- **Direct Prediction (DP):** The judge agent directly determined the debate winner and was evaluated against the ground truth using RMSE metrics.
- **Score Comparison (SC):** Scores across three metrics (factual accuracy, persuasion, and argument structure) were summed, and the predicted winner was compared to the ground truth. Our approach edged out Debatrrix in this evaluation.

Overall, we see that our method combined with score comparison outperforms all existing baselines, including Debatrrix using direction prediction, which is the current state-of-the-art.

#### 4.3 Performance on BP-Competition Dataset

On the BP-Competition dataset, which involves multi-team debates, our system achieved state-of-the-art accuracy, outperforming all baselines.

#### 4.4 Feedback Quality

Feedback was evaluated using three methods:

- **Inter-Annotator Agreement:** We achieved a Cohen’s Kappa score of 0.82, indicating strong agreement among annotators.

- **Argument F1 Score:** This metric, the geometric mean of argument recall and precision, was significantly higher for our system (0.78) compared to GPT-3.5 (0.22), GPT-3.5 + CoT (0.24), and GPT-4 (0.43).

- **Expert Judgments:** Human experts preferred our feedback 90% of the time and rated it as more specific compared to other methods.

Figure 2 shows an example feedback that our users see.

#### 4.5 Analysis of Example Graph

In figure 3 we see an example of a fully formed graph. Notice that this graph contains a multitude of connections linking the two debaters’ arguments together. In Appendix A, one can see the evolution of the debate graph over each round of debate. It is interesting to note that after the pro debater’s first turn there are only claims, premises, and first principles as the debater is setting up their argument and has not yet had an opportunity to respond to the opposing debater’s arguments with a rebuttal. However, in the con debater’s first turn rebuttals begin to be included in the graph. In rounds 2 and 3 the debaters are mostly finished setting up their claims and premises and more attention is focused on rebutting the opposing debater’s arguments; correspondingly, we see that the majority of new relations introduced in rounds 2 and 3 of the debate graph generation process are rebuttal relations, indicating a shift in the argument structure between rounds.

#### 4.6 Overall Results

Our approach delivered robust debate evaluation and feedback capabilities. While marginally trailing on the DP task, we excelled in SC tasks and



```

"feedback": {
  "pro": [
    "- feedback:",
    "Scientific methods do not inherently refute faith-based approaches; they operate in different domains of understanding.",
    "- feedback:",
    "The statement generalizes human thought processes and overlooks the diversity of individual beliefs and methodologies.",
    "- feedback:",
    "Faith and belief can play a role in shaping individual perspectives on truth, even if they are not empirical.",
    "- feedback:",
    "Many scientists apply scientific thinking and methods in their everyday lives, although not all aspects of daily life may require it.",
    "Scientific thinkers can hold beliefs or opinions, but they base them on evidence and reasoning rather than unfounded assumptions.",
    "The Pro argument clearly states the purpose of the scientific method, emphasizing its role in discovering objective truths, which is",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the subjective nature of beliefs, emphasizing that they can be influenced by personal biases.",
    "The Pro argument is more persuasive because it emphasizes the objective nature of the scientific method, highlighting that it is based",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the dynamic nature of scientific progress, emphasizing the importance of questioning and disc",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the idea that beliefs can be influenced by personal biases and may lack a logical basis, whic",
    "The Pro argument directly addresses the issue of faith-based beliefs leading to superstitions, highlighting a concern about the lack",
    "The Pro argument is more persuasive because it emphasizes the importance of empirical evidence in moving beyond outdated beliefs, sus",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the dynamic nature of scientific progress, emphasizing that challenging existing beliefs is a",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the idea that beliefs can be influenced by personal biases rather than logic, which is a com",
    "The Pro argument presents a broader perspective on the evolution of scientific thinking, emphasizing a significant shift from belief",
    "The Pro argument clearly emphasizes the foundation of the scientific method as being rooted in inquiry and evidence, which is a fund",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the limitations of our understanding of physical laws, especially in extreme conditions, whic",
    "The Pro argument effectively emphasizes the importance of a systematic approach to ideas through hypotheses and testing, which aligns",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the importance of evidence in forming beliefs, suggesting that without it, one risks being m",
    "The Pro argument clearly articulates that the scientific method is based on inquiry and evidence, which is a fundamental principle of",
    "The Pro argument highlights a critical issue in scientific understanding, emphasizing that the inconsistency of physical laws in exte",
    "The Pro argument effectively emphasizes the importance of a scientific approach that prioritizes hypotheses and testing over precon",
    "The Pro argument clearly emphasizes the goal of the scientific method, which is to uncover objective truths, making it a strong asse",
    "The Pro argument effectively highlights the primary goal of the scientific method, which is to uncover objective truths through syste",
    "The Pro argument asserts the existence of an objective truth, which is a foundational concept in many philosophical discussions. It d
  ],
  "con": [
    "- feedback:",
    "The debate between the scientific method and faith-based or belief-driven approaches highlights distinct perspectives on how knowledge is formed and validated. Proponents of the scientific method argue that its foundation in inquiry, empirical evidence, and systematic th",
    "In contrast, critics argue that beliefs and assumptions are integral to the development of scientific hypotheses. They contend that many scientific breakthroughs begin with foundati",
    "The debate also touches on the nature of truth itself. Proponents of the scientific method as",
    "Ultimately, the Pro argument stands out for its emphasis on evidence-based reasoning and self-correcting nature of science. While the Con perspective highlights the importance of ini
  ]
}

```

The debate between the scientific method and faith-based or belief-driven approaches highlights distinct perspectives on how knowledge is formed and validated. Proponents of the scientific method argue that its foundation in inquiry, empirical evidence, and systematic th makes it the most reliable way to uncover objective truths. They emphasize that science th on challenging existing beliefs, refining theories, and minimizing personal biases through rigorous experimentation. This dynamic approach is seen as essential for progress, as it ensures that knowledge evolves based on evidence rather than subjective assumptions.

In contrast, critics argue that beliefs and assumptions are integral to the development of scientific hypotheses. They contend that many scientific breakthroughs begin with foundati beliefs or axioms, which guide initial inquiry. However, the Pro side counters that while belie can inspire hypotheses, they must be tested and validated through evidence to avoid bias i ensure objectivity. Without empirical validation, belief-driven approaches risk leading to unfounded conclusions and superstitions.

The debate also touches on the nature of truth itself. Proponents of the scientific method as that objective truth exists independently of personal opinions, making science a powerful tool to uncovering reality. Critics acknowledge this but argue that subjective beliefs play a significant role in shaping human understanding, particularly in areas where empirical evidence is incomplete or evolving.

Ultimately, the Pro argument stands out for its emphasis on evidence-based reasoning and self-correcting nature of science. While the Con perspective highlights the importance of ini beliefs, it often falls short in addressing the necessity of empirical validation. This makes the argument more persuasive in advocating for a systematic approach that prioritizes evidenc over belief in the pursuit of knowledge.

Figure 2: Example feedback: Left: Detailed feedback provided by our original models; Right: Condensed feedback after summarizing key points from the main feedback

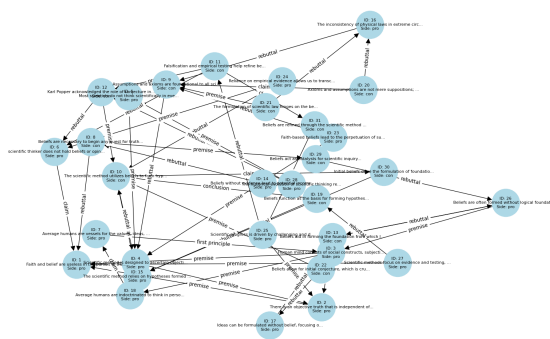


Figure 3: Final debate graph for topic: "Faith and belief are useless in the pursuit of truth."

feedback quality. The results highlight the strength of our graph-based approach in providing both accurate predictions and meaningful feedback.

## 5 Conclusion and Future Work

This paper introduced **DebGraph**, a graph-based framework combining Knowledge Graphs (KGs) and Large Language Models (LLMs) for multidimensional debate evaluation. DebGraph excels in winner prediction and feedback generation, leveraging structural representations and contextual reasoning to assess debates comprehensively. Through the project, we identified key challenges and opportunities in automated debate evaluation, offering valuable lessons for advancing this field.

### 5.1 Lessons Learned

- Constructing a graph-based representation that accurately captures the nuances of debates revealed the challenges of encoding relationships between arguments, rebuttals, and counterfactuals. We learned that balanc-

ing graph complexity with computational efficiency is crucial to maintaining scalability without sacrificing performance.

- While graphs provide a structural view of debates, incorporating contextual reasoning from LLMs proved essential for evaluating factors such as persuasiveness and rebuttal strength. This project underscored the importance of blending structural and contextual elements to capture the full dynamics of argumentation.
- Scoring debates based on discrete metrics such as factual accuracy, persuasion, and structure showed the limitations of predefined criteria. Arguments often operate on multiple dimensions simultaneously, making it challenging to holistically evaluate their impact. This highlighted the need for more granular and adaptable scoring mechanisms.
- Generating feedback that is both actionable and meaningful required designing scoring criteria that not only evaluate arguments but also offer constructive insights for improvement. This highlighted the importance of prioritizing clarity and specificity in feedback generation to make the system useful for real-world applications.

### 5.2 Future Work

Building on these lessons, we propose the following directions for improvement:

- **Weighted Edges:** Enhance graph representations by assigning weighted edges to reflect

the relative importance of arguments. This will allow the system to better evaluate debates where one strong argument outweighs multiple weaker ones.

- **Expanded Scoring Criteria:** Incorporate additional factors such as rebuttal strength, clarity, relevance, and burden of the motion to develop a more nuanced scoring system that aligns with real-world judging standards.
- **Diverse Datasets:** Expand the dataset to include debates from social media platforms, news forums, and Presidential debates to improve the model’s ability to generalize across different formats and argumentation styles.

These improvements will further strengthen De-bGraph’s utility as a comprehensive tool for automated debate evaluation and feedback generation.

## References

- A. Bhatia. 2023. Advancing policy insights: Opinion data analysis and discourse structuring using llms. *Journal of Computational Policy Analysis*.
- V. Feng and G. Hirst. 2011. Classifying arguments by scheme. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 987–996.
- Shai Gretz, Roni Friedman, Edo Cohen-Karlik, Asaf Toledo, Dan Lahav, Ranit Aharonov, and Noam Slonim. 2019. [A large-scale dataset for argument quality ranking: Construction and analysis](#).
- M. Guan, Z. Qiu, F. Li, and Y. Xue. 2023. Semantics-aware dual graph convolutional networks for argument pair extraction. In *Proceedings of the 2023 Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*. ACL Anthology.
- Omkar Joshi, Priya Pitre, and Yashodhara Haribhakta. 2023. [ArgAnalysis35K : A large-scale dataset for argument quality analysis](#). In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 13916–13931, Toronto, Canada. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- A. Khan, J. Hughes, D. Valentine, and L. Ruis. 2024. Debating with more persuasive llms leads to more truthful answers. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.06782*.
- Khalid Al Khatib, Lukas Trautner, Henning Wachsmuth, Yufang Hou, and Benno Stein. 2021. Employing argumentation knowledge graphs for neural argument generation. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 4744–4754. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- J. Liang, M. Ye, R. Han, R. Lai, X. Zhang, X. Huang, and Z. Wei. 2024. Debatrix: Multi-dimensional debate judge with iterative chronological analysis based on llm. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2024*, pages 14575–14595. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- X. Mou, Z. Li, H. Lyu, J. Luo, and Z. Wei. 2023. Unifying local and global knowledge: Empowering large language models as political experts with knowledge graphs. In *Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference*. Association for Computing Machinery.
- Moritz Plenz, Philipp Heinisch, Anette Frank, and Philipp Cimiano. 2024. Pakt: Perspectivized argumentation knowledge graph and tool for deliberation analysis. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2024*. With supplementary materials.
- P. Potash and A. Rumshisky. 2017. Towards debate automation: A recurrent model for predicting debate winners. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 2465–2475. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- F. Ruggeri, M. Lippi, and P. Torroni. 2021. Tree-constrained graph neural networks for argument mining. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.00124*.
- R. Ruiz-Dolz, S. Heras, and A. García-Fornes. 2022. Automatic debate evaluation with argumentation semantics and natural language argument graph networks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.14647*.
- W. Shang and X. Huang. 2024. A survey of large language models on generative graph analytics: Query, learning, and applications. In *Proceedings of the Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing*. Neural Information Processing Systems.
- Katherine Tian, Eric Mitchell, Allan Zhou, Archit Sharma, Rafael Rafailov, Huaxiu Yao, Chelsea Finn, and Christopher Manning. 2023. [Just ask for calibration: Strategies for eliciting calibrated confidence scores from language models fine-tuned with human feedback](#). In *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 5433–5442, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- H. Wachsmuth, G. Lapesa, E. Cabrio, and A. Lauscher. 2023. Argument quality assessment in the age of instruction-following large language models. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Computational Models of Argument*. IOS Press.
- Gechuan Zhang, Paul Nulty, and David Lillis. 2023. Argument mining with graph representation learning. In *Proceedings of the Nineteenth International*

*Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law (ICAIL*  
'23), pages 371–380. Association for Computing Ma-  
chinery.



## B Appendix: Methodology: Algorithm for scoring

---

**Algorithm 2** Debate Evaluation Algorithm

---

**Require:** Pro\_Arguments, Con\_Arguments, Rebuttals, Relationships, Entities

**Ensure:** Overall Winner, Feedback

```
1: Initialize Pro_Score, Con_Score  $\leftarrow 0$ 
2: Initialize Pro_Feedback, Con_Feedback  $\leftarrow \emptyset$ 
3: Step 1: Factual Accuracy Evaluation
4: for each argument  $A_i$  in Pro_Arguments do
5:    $(F_i, C_i, \text{Feedback}) \leftarrow \text{Evaluate\_Factual\_Accuracy}(A_i)$ 
6:   Update Pro_Score with  $F_i \times C_i$ 
7:   if Feedback is not None then
8:     Append Feedback to Pro_Feedback
9:   end if
10: end for
11: for each argument  $A_i$  in Con_Arguments do
12:    $(F_i, C_i, \text{Feedback}) \leftarrow \text{Evaluate\_Factual\_Accuracy}(A_i)$ 
13:   Update Con_Score with  $F_i \times C_i$ 
14:   if Feedback is not None then
15:     Append Feedback to Con_Feedback
16:   end if
17: end for
18: Normalize Pro_Score and Con_Score by dividing by the total number of arguments.
19: Step 2: Persuasiveness Evaluation
20: for each Pro, Con rebuttal pair  $(R_{\text{Pro}}, R_{\text{Con}})$  do
21:    $(P, \text{Feedback}) \leftarrow \text{Evaluate\_Persuasiveness}(R_{\text{Pro}}, R_{\text{Con}})$ 
22:   if  $P$  is Pro then
23:     Increment Pro_Score_Persuasion
24:     if Feedback is not None then
25:       Append Feedback to Pro_Feedback
26:     end if
27:   else
28:     Increment Con_Score_Persuasion
29:     if Feedback is not None then
30:       Append Feedback to Con_Feedback
31:     end if
32:   end if
33: end for
34: Normalize Pro_Score_Persuasion and Con_Score_Persuasion.
35: Step 3: Argument Structure Evaluation
36:  $(\text{Pro\_Count}, \text{Con\_Count}) \leftarrow \text{Count\_Nodes\_With\_Relationship}(\text{Relationships}, \text{Entities})$ 
37: Normalize the counts to calculate structural scores for both sides.
38: Step 4: Overall Score Calculation
39:  $\text{Total\_Pro\_Score} \leftarrow \text{Pro\_Score} + \text{Pro\_Score\_Persuasion} + \text{Structural\_Pro\_Score}$ 
40:  $\text{Total\_Con\_Score} \leftarrow \text{Con\_Score} + \text{Con\_Score\_Persuasion} + \text{Structural\_Con\_Score}$ 
41: if  $\text{Total\_Pro\_Score} > \text{Total\_Con\_Score}$  then
42:   Overall Winner  $\leftarrow$  Pro
43: else if  $\text{Total\_Con\_Score} > \text{Total\_Pro\_Score}$  then
44:   Overall Winner  $\leftarrow$  Con
45: else
46:   Overall Winner  $\leftarrow$  Tie
47: end if
48: Output: Return Overall Winner and Feedback
```

---

## C Appendix: Graph Generation Prompts

```
def create_scene_graph_prompt(topic, side, speech):
    base_prompt = f"""
    You are an AI agent tasked with analyzing a debate. The topic of the debate is: "{topic}".
    You are representing the {side} side. Below is a speech from your side:

    "{speech}"

    Based on this speech without making up new arguments, generate a scene graph in JSON format that includes the following:
    1. Arguments, and relationships that are most relevant to understanding your side's speech and point of view.
    2. Ensure the relations used are one of the following: ["claim", "premise", "conclusion", "first principle", "rebuttal"]
    3. The scene graph should be structured to clearly represent the key points and relationships in the argument.
    4. All ids should be unique

    Here is an example scene graph for climate change, you should follow this format in your generated scene graph:

    "{example_graph}"

    Please provide the scene graph between the markers <SCENE_GRAPH> and </SCENE_GRAPH>
    """

    return base_prompt
```

Figure 5: Prompt used to generate the initial debate scene graph.

```
def create_pro_counterfactual_scene_graph_prompt(topic, pro_speech, con_scene_graph):
    base_prompt = f"""
    You are an AI agent representing the pro side in a debate. The topic of the debate is: "{topic}".
    Below is a speech from your side:

    "{pro_speech}"

    Additionally, here is the current scene graph representing the debate which has just been modified by the con side:

    {json.dumps(con_scene_graph, indent=2)}

    Your task is to generate counterfactual argument entities and relationships in the same JSON format that refutes the con side's arguments and introduces new arguments for the pro side.
    All of your arguments should be based on the given pro side speech, do not make up new arguments that are not mentioned in the pro side speech. The counterfactual scene graph should include the following:
    1. Arguments, and relationships that directly counter the con side's scene graph.
    2. Arguments, and relationships that support the pro side's arguments.
    3. The scene graph should be structured to clearly represent the key points and relationships in the argument.
    4. Make reference to the con side's arguments by referencing their ids in the your proposed relations.
    5. Do not include duplicates of the con side's arguments in your graph when you could instead reference their ids in your relations.
    6. Do not add any new fields to the json which are not in the provided examples.
    7. Source and Target Id should always refer to an integer of an existing argument.
    8. All generated argument ids should be unique from any other id in the current scene graph.
    9. Ensure the relations used are one of the following: ["claim", "premise", "conclusion", "first principle", "rebuttal"]

    Your proposed arguments and relationships will be added to the scene graph to form an update debate graph from which a judge can determine the winner.

    Here is an example another example scene graph for climate change which you can use as reference for the format of your json output:

    "{example_graph}"

    Please provide the counterfactual scene graph between the markers <SCENE_GRAPH> and </SCENE_GRAPH>.

    You should additionally provide a brief explanation of the counterfactual scene graph between the markers <EXPLANATION> and </EXPLANATION>.
    """

    return base_prompt
```

Figure 6: Prompt used to generate pro side counterfactual graph.

```
def create_counterfactual_scene_graph_prompt(topic, con_speech, pro_scene_graph):
    base_prompt = f"""
    You are an AI agent representing the con side in a debate. The topic of the debate is: "{topic}".
    Below is a speech from your side:

    "{con_speech}"

    Additionally, here is the current scene graph representing the debate which has just been modified by the pro side:

    {json.dumps(pro_scene_graph, indent=2)}

    Your task is to generate counterfactual argument entities and relationships in the same JSON format that refutes the pro side's arguments and introduces new arguments for the con side.
    All of your arguments should be based on the given con side speech, do not make up new arguments that are not mentioned in the con side speech. The counterfactual scene graph should include the following:
    1. Arguments, and relationships that directly counter the pro side's scene graph.
    2. Arguments, and relationships that support the con side's arguments.
    3. The scene graph should be structured to clearly represent the key points and relationships in the argument.
    4. Make reference to the pro side's arguments by referencing their ids in the your proposed relations.
    5. Do not include duplicates of the pro side's arguments in your graph when you could instead reference their ids in your relations.
    6. Do not add any new fields to the json which are not in the provided examples.
    7. Source and Target Id should always refer to an integer of an existing argument.
    8. All generated argument ids should be unique from any other id in the current scene graph.
    9. Ensure the relations used are one of the following: ["claim", "premise", "conclusion", "first principle", "rebuttal"]

    Your proposed arguments and relationships will be added to the scene graph to form an update debate graph from which a judge can determine the winner.

    Here is an example another example scene graph for climate change which you can use as reference for the format of your json output:

    "{example_graph}"

    Please provide the counterfactual scene graph between the markers <SCENE_GRAPH> and </SCENE_GRAPH>.

    You should additionally provide a brief explanation of the counterfactual scene graph between the markers <EXPLANATION> and </EXPLANATION>.
    """

    return base_prompt
```

Figure 7: Prompt used to generate con side counterfactual graph.

```

def create_judge_prompt(topic, scene_graph, thoughts_history):
    base_prompt = f"""
    You are an AI judge tasked with evaluating the logical validity of arguments in a debate. The topic of the debate is: "{topic}".
    Below is the scene graph generated by the pro and con sides:

    Scene Graph:
    {json.dumps(scene_graph, indent=4)}

    Additionally, here is the history of your previous thoughts:
    {thoughts_history}

    Your task is to analyze the logical structure and validity of each side's arguments based on the scene graph.
    Consider the relationships and attributes in the graph to determine the strength and coherence of the arguments. Provide your reasoning and conclusion wrapped in <thoughts> tags.
    Based on this analysis and the history of your previous thoughts, decide which side has presented a stronger argument. If the pro side has a stronger argument, write <winner>pro</winner>.
    If the con side has a stronger argument, write <winner>con</winner>. If both sides are equally strong, write <winner>tie</winner>.

    Please provide your reasoning and conclusion between the markers <thoughts> and </thoughts>, and your decision between the markers <winner> and </winner>.
    """
    return base_prompt

```

Figure 8: Prompt used to generate judge thoughts and direct winner prediction.