

Debate Guidelines

The following guidelines are in effect for the 2010 World Scholar's Cup season.

- All teams are assigned to debate rooms.
- At global meets, teams will usually debate two or three other teams from two or three other countries.
- In the debate room, they will discover their **opponents**, their **motion**, and whether they are to **support** or **oppose** the motion. They will also meet their judge.
- The teams will have **15** minutes to confer before the debate begins. Teams may use Scholar's Cup materials or any outside resources to prepare.
- The debate will then begin. It is up to the members of individual teams to assign themselves speaking orders. Each student will stand in front of the room, provide his or her name and ID number to the judge, and begin speaking.
- Students may speak for up to five minutes. There is no penalty for speaking less than five minutes. At five minutes, the judge will stop the student. A signal will be provided when the student has just one minute left to speak.
- Between speakers, teams may confer for 90 seconds.
- Teams may not make noise or interrupt while someone is speaking.
- Speakers may use notes. They may not *read* their speeches.

The following is a breakdown of speaking order and recommended roles in the debate. Specific roles are not required; students may choose to try different approaches.

Speaker 1: Affirmative Team

The speaker delivers a clear case defending the proposition, clearly organizing her points and supplementing arguments with examples from the World Scholar's Cup materials.

Speaker 2: Negative Team

The speaker first provide independent arguments refuting the proposition, and then rebuts some of the points made by Speaker 1.

Speaker 3: Affirmative Team

The speaker first refutes the points made by Speaker 2, then rebuilds and strengthens the arguments raised by Speaker 1.

Speaker 4: Negative Team

The speaker first rebuilds the argument of Speaker 2 against the rebuttal of Speaker 3. The second rebuts the points defending the proposition raised by Speaker 3.

Speaker 5: Affirmative Team

The speaker summarizes the round, explaining to the judge why Team A was victorious and making new points only as necessary to refute Team B and to conclude with strength.

Speaker 6: Negative Team

The speaker summarizes the round, explaining to the judge why Team A was victorious and making new points only as necessary to refute Team B and to conclude with strength.

Each speaker is graded on a score of 0-90: up to 30 points for **manner**, up to 30 points for **method**, and up to 30 points for **material**. An additional 10 points can be earned for **teamwork**. Everyone on the team receives the same teamwork score. Note: Judges are instructed to focus on argument, not English fluency, as Scholar's Cup participants vary widely in their level of English.

- **Manner** refers to style and composure. How well does the speaker speak and hold herself?
- **Method** refers to logic and argumentation. How well does the speaker make his argument and rebut (when possible) the opposition?
- **Material** refers to the use of information and examples from the Scholar's Cup guides and beyond.
- **Teamwork** refers to how well a team works together, both during preparation time and, more importantly, during their speeches. It can also be affected by how respectfully the team behaves while the opposition is speaking.

At the end of the debate, the judge (or panel of judges) will announce a winning team.