

De La Salle World Affairs Debate and Public Speaking Competition

Friday, December 2, 2011

Event Guidelines

Cross-Ex Debate

1. The debate will be presided over by Mister or Madam Moderator.
2. The Affirmative team (the side in favour) shall sit on the right hand side of the Moderator. The Negative (the side against) shall sit on the left.
3. The standard speaking times will be as outlined below.
4. All remarks must be addressed to the Moderator and the member should address the Moderator in his/her first sentence.
5. During their summary rebuttals at the end of the debate, neither the 2nd Negative nor the 1st Affirmative may introduce new arguments.
6. No heckling is allowed in cross-examination debating.
7. There are no Points of Information, Points of Order or Points of Personal Privilege in this style of debate.
8. The Affirmative must define the resolution. Their definition must be accepted by the Negative team 10 minutes after the resolution has been chosen unless it is undebatable or unreasonable. Teams will have 30 minutes to prepare their arguments from the time resolutions are distributed.
9. Debaters should treat each other with respect, and judges will penalize debaters guilty of flippancy, discourtesy, or any attempt to belittle another debater.
10. The examiner shall control a cross-examination, though a witness has a right to reasonably qualify his/her answers. The examiner should allow the witness a reasonable opportunity to answer a question, but may ask the Moderator to cut the witness short if the latter stalls or answers at unnecessary length.
11. The only question that a witness may ask during cross-examination is for a confusing issue to be clarified. He/she may not answer a question by asking a question.
12. The examiner should ask fair questions on relevant subjects pertaining to the resolution, but questions need not relate to the speech just delivered by the witness, although they should relate to the question at hand.
13. Witnesses must try to answer all questions directly and honestly. They will be penalized for evading questions or giving untruthful answers. Witnesses may not object to answering questions on the grounds that they are irrelevant or unfair.
14. During a cross-examination, examiners may only ask questions; they will be penalized accordingly for making speeches or refuting at this time.

Speaking Times

1 st Affirmative's constructive speech	5 minutes
1 st Affirmative cross-examined by 2 nd Negative	3 minutes
1 st Negative's constructive speech	5 minutes
1 st Negative cross-examined by 1 st Affirmative	3 minutes
2 nd Affirmative's constructive speech	5 minutes
2 nd Affirmative cross-examined by 1 st Negative	3 minutes
2 nd Negative's constructive speech	5 minutes
2 nd Negative cross-examined by 2 nd Affirmative	3 minutes

Intermission and preparation for rebuttal Round

1 st Negative's rebuttal	3 minutes
1 st Affirmative's rebuttal	3 minutes
2 nd Negative's rebuttal	3 minutes
2 nd Affirmative's rebuttal	3 minutes

General Parliamentary Debating Tips

Analysis and Organization (20 marks): This considers organization such as "road-mapping", creativity, refutation of opponents' arguments (when appropriate), and propriety. If the negative team does not refute the arguments of the affirmative team, it cannot win the debate. The resolution should be defined by the first affirmative in an appropriate manner. The negative team has to debate the topic as defined by the affirmative. There is no squirreling allowed. You should penalize a team if the definition is outrageous or ridiculous. If the definition is inappropriate, take this into consideration when scoring. Only the first affirmative delivers a pre-prepared speech; all other debaters must incorporate refutation based on information heard in the debate. The structure of the speech requires that students begin with a refutation before launching into their constructive or prepared speeches.

Logic and Evidence (20 marks): This takes into account reasoning, logic, validity of facts, questioning that is logical, relevant and concise. Debaters must be pointed, precise and polite in critiquing each other's arguments. The debate is not reduced to a simple "yes or no" answer. Debaters are able to identify logical strengths and weakness in each other's arguments such as faulty analogies, hasty generalizations and evading the issue.

Clash and Refutation (20 marks): This mark includes refutation of opponents' arguments as well as summation of one's own arguments, followed by concluding remarks. Penalized a debater if he/she introduces new information in the rebuttal, whether new arguments or evidence. During questioning the examiner cannot force a simple "yes or no" answer. If the examiner abruptly interrupts the witness before he/she has had time to answer properly, then the examiner should be penalized. An examiner or witness should also be penalized for "speech-making". Both examiner and witness exercise courtesy at all times. The witness is allowed a maximum of approximately 30 seconds to answer a given question. If the response exceeds this and the witness does not allow the next question to be asked, then he/she should be penalized. However, if a cross-examiner asks an open-ended question, the witness can take as much time to respond as the cross-examiner will allow before the next question is asked. No penalty is assigned in this case. The witness is not allowed to ask questions, except for clarification.

Delivery (20 marks): This mark includes a consideration of tone, personal style, deportment, persuasiveness, eye contact, manner and ability to speak without dependence on notes. Coaches also take note of fidgeting, body language, voice pace and tone, and confidence. Never look stiff or hand-cuffed to your notes; the best speakers look genuinely engaged by the material and the clash of ideas. Notes always remain on your desk so as to free your hands for assertive gesturing.

Teamwork (20 marks): In coordinate debating, this category notes how well debaters work together. This is most obviously reflected in the "road-mapping" of speeches and the sharing of notes during the debate. Debaters make reference to each other's arguments in their addresses. They can communicate during their opposition's time at the podium but cannot talk so as to disrupt. Rebuttals are organized so that team members complement each other's arguments. Once a judge has heard all debaters, he or she will add up all scores and double check marks.