



AIR CADET DEBATING HANDBOOK
Version 1 **March 2017**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE OPC AIR CADET DEBATING PROGRAM

At the 2002 Hamilton Area Effective Speaking Contest a suggestion was made that consideration be given to the introduction of an Air Cadet Debating Competition. In investigating this idea a meeting was held with all cadets participating in the National Air Cadet League Effective Speaking finals in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The cadets were unanimous in their support of, and desire for, an Air Cadet Debating Competition. As a result, the First Annual OPC Air Cadet Debating Competition took place the following May using the facilities of Mohawk College of Applied Arts & Technology in Hamilton.

This program presents another opportunity for Squadrons to interact and compete against one another. Cadets practice and refine important life skills in the areas of listening, reasoning, and public speaking. It can be a reasonably inexpensive program for Squadrons that does not require a large block of time out of the training year. Further, it does not require a significant amount of time or personnel to implement and all can compete on a level playing field regardless of Squadron size.

Aims

The aims of the OPC Air Cadet Debating Program are to:

- Provide an opportunity for Air Cadets to develop self confidence, improve communication skills and increase their ability to reason, organize and express ideas logically and persuasively
- Foster the principals of team working and enable cadets to further develop the skills acquired through the mandatory LHQ and Summer Training Centre leadership and instructional techniques courses.
- Promote the citizenship component of local squadron training by familiarizing Air Cadets with Robert's Rules of Order.
- Increase public awareness at the provincial and local levels of the citizenship and leadership aspects of the Air Cadet program.
- Provide a focus at the Local, Regional, and Provincial levels, to promote and encourage Air Cadets to participate in an optional activity that will provide them with an opportunity to acquire effective speaking skills through instruction and practice in a structured and competitive environment;

Implementation

In the Air Cadet program, we use words such as leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, good citizenship. Cadets who participate in the OPC Debating program will learn all of these things. The skills they learn here will help them immeasurably in other areas of their life as well, whether they are making class presentations in secondary school, or later, interviewing for admission to professional faculties at universities, making presentations to colleagues at work, leading volunteer organizations, running for public office.

While most of this handbook focuses on the organization and of competition, because it is necessary for competitions to be run smoothly and fairly, it is also important to present a program at the squadron level that accomplishes the aims of the program and also prepares the Cadets for the competitions.

Resources

In addition to this handbook, some resources are:

1. Resources at Squadron level

- a) Parents in your Squadron who have experience in public speaking (for example, through their jobs, or being members of Toastmasters, etc.)
 - b) Joint programs with neighbouring Squadrons.
 - c) LHQ debating committee – the more helpers, the lighter the workload.
2. Resources within the Community
- (a) Friends or relatives of the parents in your Squadron who have experience in debating and/or public speaking and might be willing to help.
 - (b) Other members of your community who might be willing to help – preachers, priests and ministers; school teachers and principals or college professors; lawyers and judges; mayor, city councilors, MLA or other politicians; TV or radio personalities; etc.
 - (c) Local Toastmasters Club.
3. Resources at Regional or Provincial Level
- a) Region Operations Committee (ROC) representatives may have suggestions
 - b) Where available, Regional/Provincial Debating Coordinators
4. On-line resources
- a) Reference and Training material on the Provincial Committee website.
 - b) Google or other search engine – will get you to numerous sites with helpful hints.
 - c) Canadian Student Debating Society web site.

SQUADRON / REGIONAL DEBATING COORDINATOR

The squadron or regional Debating Coordinator is the person responsible for organizing the program. This may mean presenting the program to the Cadets, or recruiting another volunteer to train/teach the Cadets. The coordinator should have the support of the sponsoring committee to assist in organizing and running a squadron-level competition.

Planning Calendar

This is a suggested planning calendar only. It will assist in preparation and organization of the program, and will act as a checklist for tasks to be undertaken.

September

OPC Headquarters ensures updated Rules and Forms are available via the OPC website for use by Debating Coordinators and squadrons.

October

Provincial Coordinator or OPC Office sends information on Debating Competition to all Regional Operations Committee Chairs, Region Coordinators, Sponsoring Committee Chairs and Squadron Commanding Officers.

November

Sponsoring Committee Chairs and Regional Coordinators appoint committee members for competitions at the various levels.

- Post circulars at Squadron Headquarters.
- Review Organizers Guide and Rules for Competition.
- Choose dates for competition.
- Begin preparation of budget.

- Review progress reports from Coordinators and Committee members.
- Decide on materials and participation certificates needed.
- Submit completed budget to coordinators.
- Circulate advance publicity to the media.
- Begin looking for timekeepers, tellers and judges plus alternates.
- Make comprehensive review of programs and dates of program.
- Review number of participants, schedule preliminary competition if more competitors are entered. Ideally, for the sake of the judges, limit competitions to no more than 10 ten teams.
- Plan layout and organization of competition night.
- If number of teams is insufficient, make another effort through squadrons.

January 1-15

Make final preparations.

Review all plans - double check everything.

Review time and date of competition(s) - recruit assistance if necessary.

January 16 - February 28

Conduct training - select squadron teams. Conduct preliminary competitions, if needed.

March to Mid April

Determine teams to compete at any Regional or Provincial Competition.

Prepared debate resolution is selected and communicated to teams 2-3 weeks prior to completion date.

Mid to Late April

Conduct Provincial Competition.

May 1

Don't forget to circulate news releases on winners.

THE DEBATING COMPETITION

Debating Committee

Every level of competition could benefit from a Debating Committee, which has authority over the competition. This Committee is responsible to the Provincial Coordinator, who is responsible for the provincial competition.

The Committee has these duties:

- Selecting someone to host the event.
- Selecting appropriate judges for the competition in accordance with the regulations. Judges could be Cadet League or Cadet Instructor personnel, Toastmasters, schoolteachers or principals, journalists, civil servants, policemen or other members of the community.
- Informing judges and evaluator in advance about:
 - the Air Cadet program,
 - the competition procedure,
 - the importance of constructive comments, and
 - how to score - marking and evaluator sheets.
- Obtaining facilities and having them available at least half an hour before the competition. Locations with multiple rooms are ideal for competitions where multiple debates are occurring at the same time.
- Obtaining a P.A. system, podium, time cards or timing devices, stopwatches, and any recognition of speakers and judges.

- Providing extra score marking sheets and extra evaluation sheets.
- Preparing the prepared and impromptu topic in collaboration with the judges. The impromptu topic should be based on knowledge available to all the contestants regardless of age or experience.
- Meet with contestants briefly before the competition to clarify procedures, answer questions, and proceed with the draw to determine the order the speaker will participate.
- Selecting, briefing and supervising timekeeper(s) and teller.
- Breaking ties resulting from the competition by having the judges agree on a winner. Tied competitors should not be subjected to a second impromptu debate.
- Selecting a Resolution Panel to rule on disqualifications (e.g., Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge, etc.) for such infractions as not presenting an original speech and/or using visual aids and gimmicks, etc. These contestants will not be eligible to receive an award.
- Destroying the judges', timer's and teller's marking sheets after the competition. No one is allowed to see these sheets.
- Preparing and distributing news releases.

Organizer's Guide

1. Set Dates

Be sure to set provincial, then regional, then local level competitions, setting each date at least one month previous to the next level competition.

Ideally, this should be done in December to make sure dates are recorded on everyone's calendar.

2. Training and Workshops

It is not always necessary to organize a training workshop for either officials or cadets for every competition level. Once a squadron has established a local debating program and have designated a team coach, they may not require additional seminars. Training Material in the form of this Handbook, Power Point presentations, and videos may be available on the OPC portal website – Debating folder. If a Region requires additional training, they should work through their Debating Coordinator to request further assistance.

3. Decide Location

- Central to area.
- Consistent with any existing rotation.
- Facility suitable for speakers and anticipated audience.

4. Book Facility

- Book with the appropriate person.
- Determine all details of payment (cost, to whom, when, method of payment). Be sure payment is available at the right time (cheque signed, etc.) Send a confirmation letter.
- Determine who will open/close facility, handle keys, etc.
- Obtain a P.A. system and podium if required.

5. Awards and Recognition

Ensure any trophies, medals, certificates or inexpensive gifts are preordered or prearranged.

6. Select Judges

- Use criteria of knowledge, attitude and appropriate experience, interest in youth, willingness, and ability.
- One judge to be appointed the Chief Judge for the competition.
- The number of judges required for a competition will depend on the number of teams entered, facilities and schedule of debates (note: a minimum of two judges - one being designated as the Senior Judge - is required for each debate)
- **Inform Your Judges about:**
 - a. the purpose of the competition
 - b. what is expected of judges
 - c. use of the forms (send samples)
 - d. comments (verbal, written)
 - e. the competition rules and regulations
 - f. specific details (date, time, place)
 - g. the scoring and teller system
 - h. scheduled judges workshops and encourage them to attend

7. Notification

- Inform appropriate Squadron Officers, Sponsoring Committee and Provincial Committee members and parents of details of the competition (time, date, place, level, judges, dress, etc.).
- Ensure that the **Prepared Resolution** statement is communicated to all participating teams at the same time - 2 to 3 weeks in advance of the competition date.
- See attachment for sample Organizational memo.

8. Media Promotion

- Contact local radio and television station(s) with details of the competition (you might even be able to
- Arrange for someone from the station to attend and tape a report for airing, or act as judge, M.C., etc.).
- Write a brief news release and provide this to newspapers 2-3 weeks in advance of the competition.
- Be sure to ask newspapers if a reporter/photographer can attend. If not, be prepared to take a few pictures and send in a short follow-up release.

9. Sponsors

- Ask potential sponsors if they are interested in sponsoring part of the Debating Competition. Do this **4-6 weeks ahead** of the date, to allow them time to respond. Know in advance **exactly** what kind of support (dollars, materials, people, etc.) you are looking for.
- Invite sponsors or representatives to attend the competition - and recognize them when they do attend.

Recruiting Officials and Helpers

Debating Coordinator

Has access to a copy of the current Rules and Regulations well in advance. Coordinator possibilities include Sponsoring Committee Chair, CIC Officers or staff, ex-Cadets, media representatives.

Chairperson Responsibilities:

- Keep speakers as relaxed as possible.
- Inform and guide the audience through the program.
- Introduce officials, guests, judges, sponsors, etc., noting any special seating arrangements.
- Announce results, present awards, thank you(s), etc.
- Maintain a smooth, comfortable pace for the program.
- **NOTE:** In order to ensure uniformity and avoid controversy, each Debating Coordinator must work in very close association with the Provincial Debating Coordinator. The Debating Coordinator must ensure that the program follows the OPC Rules and that precautions are taken to avoid complaints, problems, etc.

Officer of Primary Importance

A CIC Officer or Civilian Instructor should be present and designated as the OPI for the cadet activity.

Timer(s)

- A debating team's speaker alternates between debate moderator and timer duties.
- Provide each timer with an accurate stopwatch if possible.
- Explain to timer(s) the competition order, procedure, duties etc.
- Inform timer(s) of what to do with Timer Marking Sheet.

Teller(s)

- Collect score and time sheets from Judges, Timers, or "Admin Runners"
- Calculate placing from judges' ranking – can be done manually or with an electronic spreadsheet
- Inform Chief Judge of the calculated results.

Set-Up/ Clean Up Crew

Find several people to set-up tables, chairs, P.A. system, etc.

Arrange for a key to be available.

Hospitality/Administration Team

- Post or distribute copies of competition program or schedule
- Receive all participants, officials, and guests
- Register and record participants and assign ID tags/numbers
- Distribute materials to attendees. This includes Judges score sheets, Timer sheets, stop watches, reference materials, lunch tickets, etc.

Refreshment

If required, assign an individual the responsibility for buying or bringing juice, coffee, food, etc. This may include ensuring cadets have lunch provisions where required. This may also provide opportunity for squadron or SSC to benefit from canteen sales.

Recognition of Sponsors, Judges and Other Officials

Say "thank you"; a certificate of appreciation or an inexpensive gift is optional, but appreciated. The gift may be made presented by a Competition Official or Cadet. The Cadets are already benefiting from the training in a life-long skill. Expensive or elaborate awards are not required or recommended.

After the Competition:

Be sure winning teams know the time, date and place of the next level and who to contact regarding that Competition. Remember your post-competition publicity in the media.

TRAINING MATERIAL

Refer to downloadable FILES (e.g. Presentations) located within the OPC portal DEBATING file folder

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Refer to the online document located within the OPC portal DEBATING file folder

Ensure you share this publication with all judges and participants

THE COMPETITION

It is critical to the success of the competition at all levels that you make sure that:

- ✓ **Whoever is teaching the lessons** knows the rules and requirements of the OPC Air Cadet Debating Program.
 - ✓ **The Cadets** know the rules and requirements of the OPC Air Cadet Debating Program.
 - ✓ The paperwork is filled out correctly and on time.
 - ✓ **Judges** know the rules and requirements for marking.
1. The OPC Debating Competition is held annually. If Regional competitions are held, the top two teams of from each region will advance to the provincial level. If the winning team(s) cannot attend the competition at the next level, the runner-up(s) can substitute.
 2. Local, regional and provincial competitions should be completed before April 30th of the current training year.
 4. Squadron Sponsoring Committees have the option of sponsoring a local Debating competition for Air Cadets. The local Debating competition committee is responsible for all phases of competition at the squadron level. All local competitions must be conducted by members of the Sponsoring Committee, in cooperation with CIC/staff personnel. At the discretion of the Provincial Committee, each squadron may send one or more contestants to compete in regional or provincial level competition.
 5. Regional Coordinators – working with the Provincial Committee – conduct regional competitions. Regional competitions will be held at times and places determined by the Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator will be determined, and supervised by, the Provincial Coordinator. All regional competitions must comply with the official rules and the regional winners shall be eligible to compete at the provincial competition.
 6. The Provincial Coordinator conducts the provincial competition. He/she will work with the Ontario Provincial Committee Executive Director and PDO Staff to determine the date and place of the provincial competition. All competitions must comply with the official rules.
 7. See the OPC portal Debating folder and the Attachments section of this document for supporting material (e.g. forms, score sheets, etc.). Pre-assembled Admin, Judges and timer packages will help to make the day go smoothly.

Eligibility

Open to all Air Cadets who have not aged out up to and including the day of return to unit from the Provincial Competition.

General Rules

1. All levels of the Debating Competition must be organized in its entirety by an Air Cadet League Committee.
2. The transportation of a team to a region and or provincial competition and the maintenance of the contestant at the competition site shall be the responsibility of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee.
3. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold, consumed or be present at any level of Debating competitions.

C. Workshop:

A one-day debating workshop will be conducted in conjunction with the competition. This workshop is intended for cadets having an interest in debating and a desire to learn more to prepare for future competitions.

To date more than 20 cadets have been registered for the workshop which is open to all cadets and is free of charge. (A light lunch is available at a cost of \$6.00 per person. A maximum of twenty-seven cadets can be accommodated.

This is an ideal opportunity for cadets to receive in-depth training and to view the competition cadets in action.

D. Resolution:

The resolution for the compulsory rounds (Rounds 1, 2 and championship debates) is:

“Be it resolved that Canada should focus its investments on adapting to global warming rather than trying to stop it and should encourage the world to do so as well”.

Impromptu resolutions for rounds 3 & 4 will be announced on the day of the competition.

E. Location and Format

Note: Due to building renovations the following locations within the college are subject to change.

i) Location: Information Technology Centre (i Wing), Mohawk College, Hamilton

ii) Timing: 08:00 to 17:00 Hours, Sunday April 28, 2013

08:00 - 09:00 - Registration - Rotunda, Mohawk College Centre for Innovation

09:15 - Briefing for Judges and Officials - **Room i224**

09:15 - Briefing for Debating Teams & Workshop participants – Lecture Theatre, **(Room i109)**

10:00 - Competition Starts

- Cadet Workshop begins in the Lecture Theatre, Room i109

iii) Format: Each team will participate in four rounds of debate with the top two teams competing in a final debate for the Gold and Silver medals.

Fred Hopkinson

Chair, OPC Debating Program

Distribution:

Participating Squadrons
Competition Judges
Mr. Ryann Atkins, V/P Queens University Debating Union
Mr. Scott Lawson Executive Director, OPC
Major Mike Boyle, OPC Regional Director – Hamilton
Mr. Anthony Bratschitsch, President, Valley Town Toastmasters Club
Major Lisa Burton, Detachment Commander COA
Mr. Rick Crout, Debating Coordinator, Peel/Halton
Mr. Bill Cumming, First Vice Chair OPC,
Major Dave Elloway, Regional Cadet Advisor, WOA
Major Dave Forster, Regional Cadet Advisor, COA
Mr. George Hough, OPC Director
Captain Lisa Lacombe, Director, Administration
Mr. Scott Lawson, Executive Director, Ontario Provincial Committee
Ms. Julie Manske, Debating Coordinator, Kitchener/Waterloo
Secretary, Ontario Student Debating Union
Ms. Karen Prine, Debating Coordinator, Hamilton Area
Ms. Joanne Plaxton, Vice Chair & Chief Judge
Major Darryl Rolfe, Commanding Officer, TACSTC
Ms. Andrea Ruttan, Debating Coordinator, Grey/Bruce
Major Lloyd Sainsbury, Detachment Commander, WOA
Mr. Thomas Taborowski, Chair, Ontario Provincial Committee
Mr. Ralph Thistle, Debating Coordinator, Eastern Ontario
Mr. Mark Thususka, Workshop Coordinator
LCdr Jennifer Vanclief, Detachment Commander, EOA
Major Paul Willis, Detachment Commander, NOA
Major David Wright, Central Region Plans Officer, RCSU CFB Borden

Guidelines for Judges

Thank you for participating as a judge in the OPC Air Cadet Debating Program. As a judge, your impartial and fair evaluation of the debaters' performances today will be critical to their ability to learn and have a great time. The following has been prepared to assist you with your responsibilities. Included are:

- A copy of the pertinent rules
- A guide to scoring ranges

General Guidelines

- Please be sure to write down your name, the number of judges in the room, as well as the room number and round number in the places marked on the ballot. Also be sure to get the number assigned to each debater and the Speaker of the House. If you are not sure, please ask the Speaker to confirm the numbers and their positions (e.g., Prime Minister).
- Objectivity is the essential quality of a judge. One must forget one's personal opinions and feelings when judging. This can be very difficult and when in doubt, please ask yourself: "did the other team address this argument/evidence and is their argument convincing on its own without my adding anything from my preconceptions?"
- It is useful to take some notes. Suggest a 4-square grid to jot down the back and forth arguments between the two teams.
- If you need more time between speeches, you can ask the moderator to wait.
- There is no penalty for a shorter speech, however, it will probably lack in context or refutation. A concise speech is preferable to a repetitive one, where a speaker is obviously killing time.
- To help you formulate your final mark for each debater, the marks have been divided into three sections. In addition, a guide to scoring ranges has been provided. Please ensure that your marking aligns with this guide. It will help us achieve consistency across the different judges.
- We request that you familiarize yourself with the rules. The following sections are included in this Guideline:
 - 2.07: Order of Speaking and Debating Roles
 - 4.0: Marking of Speeches
 - 5.0: Decision of Debate

2.07 Order of Speaking and Debating Roles

1. Prime Minister's (PM) Introduction
5 minutes (prepared)/ 3 minutes (impromptu)

The Prime Minister should define the terms of the resolution and outline the Government's case, giving necessary background information. The PM is also expected to outline several points in detail and provide evidence to support them.

2. First Member of the Opposition (MO) Speech
5 minutes (prepared)/ 3 minutes (impromptu)

The Member of the Opposition must do two things:

1. Rebut all of the points raised by the Prime Minister.
2. Summarize why the Government's resolution must fail.

Note: if the Opposition wishes to propose a counter-plan it must be done at this time. However, such a plan is not required and there are no penalties for not introducing one.

3. Minister of the Crown (MC)
5 minutes (prepared)/ 3 minutes (impromptu)

The Minister of the Crown must do three things:

1. Rebuild the government's case by reinforcing the points raised by the PM and rebutting the points raised the MO.
2. Bring up one or two new constructive points for the Government's case,
3. Summarize by explaining why the Government's case still stands.

4. Leader of the Opposition (LO)
7 minutes (prepared)/ 4 minutes (impromptu)

The Leader of the Opposition is the last speaker against the resolution. They:

1. Rebuild the opposition arguments against the resolution by rebutting arguments and evidence raised by the MC and reinforcing the rebuttal of the PM made by the MO.
2. Summarizing why the Government's resolution must fail.

5. Prime Minister's (PM) Rebuttal
2 minutes (prepared)/1 minute (impromptu)

This is the final summary of the Government's case and evidence. The Prime Minister is expected to rebut arguments raised by the Opposition and summarize why the Government's case must ultimately stand. No new information can be introduced at this point, except in direct refutation to something brought up by the LO. It is generally more effective to pick 2-3 main arguments in favour of the resolution and show why they still stand or critically undermine the arguments presented against the resolution by the Opposition rather than trying to hit everything in just 2 minutes.

Marking of Speeches

4.01 Each speech will be marked out of 100, divided into three categories.

Argument & Evidence	40 marks
Organization	40 marks
Delivery	20 marks

An average score is 75-80 marks. The main criterion for marking any speech is how persuasive it is in support of its side of the resolution, in the context of the debate and the role assigned to the speaker (see section 2 for a description of roles). The marking categories exist to assist judges with the evaluation of this.

4.02 **Argument & Evidence** - Marks will be awarded for the ability to present logical and evidence based arguments that directly support the case being presented. A substantial portion of the mark is the ability to rebuild the case after it has been attacked by the other team.

4.03 **Organization** – Relates to the coherency of the presentation, the logic of the order in which arguments are presented and the ability to bring it all together into a tight conclusion

4.04 **Delivery** – is the effectiveness of the debater’s style and includes elements such as eye contact, cadence and rhythm of the presentation, overall confidence and appropriate use of tonal variations, hand gestures and humour.

5.0 Decision of Debate

5.01 The organizers prior to each round will allocate the adjudicator(s) of each debate.

5.02 Each adjudicator will record her or his scoring of the speeches in the debate on the form provided by the organizers.

5.03 Once the debate is concluded, judges shall independently score the debate. After all judges have completed their marking, the Head Judge in the room will collect the scoring sheets. The Head Judge is then responsible for making sure that they are delivered to the central scoring location once the debaters have been dismissed and within 20 minutes of the debating being concluded.

5.04 Judges shall not confer with each other while they are marking the debate.

5.05 The results of the debate (win/loss) shall NOT be announced by the judges, with the exception of the final round which will be announced by the Chief Judge.

5.06 Judges may, at the discretion of the Head Judge in the room, make general construction comments regarding the debate. However, they may not express personal opinions regarding the resolution or engage in debate by disputing any of the arguments or evidence raised.

5.07 The ranking of teams, with the exception of the top two who will participate in the final round, will be determined on the basis of cumulative team scores through the rounds of debate. The ranking of the top two teams will be determined by their team scores in the final round.

5.08 The Chief Judge, whose decision will be final, will decide any dispute concerning the interpretation of these rules.

Scoring Guideline for the Speaker on a Scale of 60 to 95

90-95: Outstanding in all aspects. Maintained order without assistance demonstrating poise and confidence despite serious challenges.

80-89: Very good. Unscripted, organized, correct and unassisted rulings.

70-79: Average to Good. Organized and maintained order.

60-69: Needs some Improvement – knowledge, control or organizational issues.

Debating Tournament Scoring Range*

50 – 59 (very rare): This speech was quite poor. A debater who makes an honest effort should not receive a score this low. This score should only be given to someone who is offensive, seriously violates the rules and/or generally ruins the nature of the debate. ***You must be able to justify this score. The Chief Judge will request justification of this score and can override it raising the score to 60% at their discretion.***

60 - 69 (about 5% of speeches): This speech was poor. Stylistically it was weak and from the perspective of matter brought very little if anything to the round. Most debaters who receive this score will not have filled their time. There was an honest attempt made to debate, but it was generally ineffective and lacked any real structure. Scores in the higher end of this range will show some attempt to deal with the issues and the actual topic, but was still a poor speech.

70 - 75 (about 15% of speeches): This speech was below average. Although the debater may have filled most of their time, there were significant gaps in both style and logic that detracted from the speech. While the debater had an understanding of the issues in the round, he/she did not do a great job addressing them.

75 - 80 (about 30% of speeches): ***This speech was average.*** The debater was competent and generally managed to identify the major issues in the debate, both in constructive arguments and in refutation. He/she presented sufficient matter that was generally well organized. Stylistically he/she was not brilliant but at least easy to listen to. The debater will likely have filled time, and generally did all they were supposed to do.

80 - 85 (about 30% of speeches): This speech was generally very good. **A score of 80% is the benchmark for someone who did everything they were supposed to, and did it reasonably well.** The debater filled all of their time, constructed relevant arguments in a logical and organized manner, refuted all arguments adequately, was stylistically excellent and/or had interesting and thought provoking analysis. This debater did what they were called on to do and it was generally a polished speech.

85 – 90 (about 15% of speeches): This speech was outstanding. The debater had excellent style and charisma, and brilliant analysis. He/She brought up arguments that were insightful, creative, relevant and well developed. All arguments were refuted systematically and thoroughly. A debater who averages these scores over all of their rounds should win, or come close to, the top speaker award. Awarding this score means that you think there is a good chance this will happen.

90+ (about 5% of speeches): This was one of the most brilliant speeches you have ever heard. Stylistically it was flawless. The argumentation and analysis were far beyond what one would expect from a high school student. You might see one or two of these speeches over the course of an entire season, and even if you do, ***91 or 92 is as high as you should go.*** This person was a joy to listen to and you were sad when his/her time elapsed. ***You should be prepared to justify this score and the Chief Judge has the authority to reduce the score to 90% at their discretion. A score of 100% is not possible.***

**adapted with thanks from the Ontario Student Debating Union*

Script – Speaker of the House

Have all debaters, officials and spectators sit down and announce: **The House will come to order.**

Good morning/afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Annual Air Cadet Debating Competition. I am *(give rank, name & squadron)* **and I will be the Speaker of the House for this debate.**

The Timekeeper today is: *(rank, name & squadron)*

And the resolution to be debated is:

“Be it resolved that

On my right, debating for the Government: *(team name, number, name of Squadron and home community. e.g. Team “Alpha” of 212 “Hurricane” Squadron from Preston Ontario)*

Represented by: **1st Speaker** *(rank & name)* _____

2nd Speaker *(rank & name)* _____

On my left, opposing the Government as the loyal Opposition: *(team name, number, name of Squadron and home community)*

Represented by: **1st Speaker** *(rank & name)* _____

2nd Speaker *(rank & name)* _____

On behalf of the House, I extend a special welcome to our Judges. Please switch off all electronic devices until the conclusion of the debate.

Each debater will have 5 minutes to deliver his/her remarks. In addition, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition will each have another 2 minutes for rebuttal.

As Speaker, I will entertain Points of Order and Personal Privilege (rule 3.0.7). Heckling is permitted only by competing debaters, however Judges may penalize any debater who interrupts another thoughtlessly or excessively or who lowers the quality of debate. My decisions are final and cannot be appealed but the Judges will make allowances for the victims of my mistakes. Squirreling will not be permitted (rule 1.2.4).

Are there any questions regarding the rules?

Pause for questions. Once any raised have been answered, or if there are none, say: **I now declare the debate open and call upon the Prime Minister (first speaker for the Government) to introduce the resolution, define the terms, and outline the Government’s case.**

After the Prime Minister’s speech say: **I thank the Prime Minister for his/her remarks. We will now hear from the first speaker for the Opposition. If the Opposition intends to contest the Government definitions or to introduce a counter plan, it must do so during this address.**

After the First Opposition Speech say: **Thank you for your remarks. I now call upon the second speaker for the Government.”**

After the second speaker for the Government say: **Thank you. The Leader of the Opposition will now deliver the last speech opposing this resolution. It is his/her responsibility to complete the attack on the Government case and to defend and summarize the position of the Opposition. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the last 2 minutes of this speech constitutes the Opposition rebuttal. During this speech, although new evidence may be introduced, no new contentions may be introduced.**

After the second speaker for the Opposition say: **I thank the Leader of the Opposition, and now call upon the Prime Minister to present the Government’s official rebuttal. During this 2 minute speech, although new evidence may be introduced, no new contentions may be introduced.**

At the end of all speakers, and when the Judges have indicated they are ready, say: **I would now like to introduce you to our Senior Judge, _____ and our second Judge _____ and, time permitting, ask that they deliver their critiques.”** *(Note: There is no announcement of a winning team at this time.)*

Following the judges comments express thanks and then call upon the captain of Team _____ to propose a vote of thanks.

Then call upon the captain of Team _____ to second the vote of thanks and, when he/she has finished, say: **I thank the Judges and the Timer for their assistance. I congratulate all the debaters on their performances and thank the members of the gallery for their attentiveness.**

Since this debate is now concluded, and there is no further business on the Order Paper, I now declare the House adjourned.

