

Rules of Debating

- **Presided over by the Speaker of the House**
- **Government on Right, Opposition on Left**
- **Speeches must not be read**
- **All remarks addressed to the Speaker**
- **Government must define the Resolution**
- **No Props (dictionary/thesaurus only)**
- **No new Arguments in the PM Rebuttal**
- **Use proper titles when referring to people**
- **No Profanity**
- **Verbal “heckling” only – must be pertinent, brief and infrequent**
- **Only one person holds the floor at one time (must be recognized by the Speaker)**
- **No squirreling (defining the resolution in obscure terms)**
- **No coaching during the debate**

The Arguments

- **Fact based points – be prepared to quote your source**
- **Imaginative arguments are permitted in impromptu round**
- **Purely emotional appeals are not credited**
- **The team supporting the affirmative argument (normally the government) has the onus of persuasion**
- **Should a *counter proposal* be introduced the onus of persuasion switches**

Debating Roles

Speaker of the House

Acts as moderator/master of ceremonies

Timekeeper

Uses time cards to caution speakers of time remaining

Government Team

Affirmative side that supports the resolution

Opposition Team

Contests the validity of the Government's motion

Order of Speaking

1. **Prime Minister's Introduction (PM)**
- 5 Minutes (3 for impromptu)
2. **First member of the Opposition (MO)**
- 5 Minutes (3 for impromptu)
3. **Minister of the Crown (MC)**
- 5 Minutes (3 for impromptu)
4. **Leader of the Opposition (LO)**
- 7 Minutes (4 for impromptu)
5. **Prime Minister's Rebuttal (PM)**
- 2 Minutes (1 for impromptu)

The Speaker of the House

Speaker Explains the Process & Introduces the Teams

Speaker Declares Debate Open & introduces speakers

Rule on Points of Order or Personal Privilege – escalate where required

Declares the debate closed

Escalating Control of the Debate

If a member is not listening to the Speaker's direction or fails to yield the floor on a point, appeal is made to the head judge in the room to enforce the rules. The head judge will then direct the member, and warn the member that such behaviour is not tolerated.

If the head judge sees that the Speaker of the House is unable to maintain control as demonstrated by a team arguing with their direction, the head judge is to enforce the authority of the Speaker by advising the member to follow direction and issues warning.

If the member still refuses direction from the Head Judge and Speaker, the timekeeper is instructed to summon the Chief Judge who may assign another Speaker of the House for the remainder of the debate and repeat the warning.

The member who has risen on their point and been recognized will wait until the other member has yielded (is seated and quiet) before proceeding. They should not enter into the argument or attempt to state their point until it is calm and quiet. In this way, the member retains their good standing

Points of Order

- **Draws Attention to Breach of Rules**
- **Irrelevance or misquoting**
- **Possible Misconduct**
- **Immediately After Rule Contravened**
- **Speaker May call a Member to Order**

Points of Personal Privilege

- **Include Misquoting or Misrepresenting an Opponent**
- **Referring to a Member Incorrectly**
- **Slandering a Member**

- **Cannot Raise a Point on Behalf of Another Member**

Points of Information

- **No longer used in Air Cadet debating (rule change in 2016)**
- **Question or challenge opponent during your rebuttal**

Raising a Point:

- **To Raise – Stand and Say “Mr. (Madam) Speaker I Rise on a Point of... (Order/Information/ Privilege)”**
- **Debater Interrupted Shall Immediately Surrender the Floor (interrupted debater sits down)**
- **Speaker Will Recognize Complainant, Hear the Objection Request**
- **Or a point of Order or Personal Privilege, rule (defer to judges if uncertain). Announce “Point Well Taken” or “Not Well Taken”**
- **Return control to the interrupted Debater**

How Do I Prepare?

You need to be able to argue both sides effectively !

- **Research or List Facts that support the resolution**
* **Make sure you note the source of any research**
- **Research or List Facts that “refute” the resolution**
* **Make sure you note the source of any research**
- **List Counterpoints or arguments for each fact you listed**
- **Review the rules and practice**

Bring writing material and a team dictionary or thesaurus

No laptops – but a list of quotations is permissible

Make 2 Point Form Lists
{Affirmative and Opposition views}
include your sources

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supported point A | <i>counter argument</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supported point B | <i>counter argument</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supported point C | <i>counter argument</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supported point D | <i>counter argument</i> |