

Debate Rules

(1) Outline

Given a topic, the affirmative (Government) and negative (Opposition) sides give a speech to persuade a judge. They cannot choose which side they take, and a host will assign it. The judge decides on a winner, who makes more persuasive arguments, based on matter and manner as in (8) below.

(2) The number of debaters

3 debaters on each side, 6 debaters in total. See their individual responsibilities in Figure 1.

(3) Preparation time

15 minutes

(4) Speech order and time

The order and time of speeches are shown as Figure 1. The speech time lasts either 3 or 2 minutes. However, speakers may finish their speeches 30 seconds before or after a given time. A judge gives one knock 30 seconds before the time limit, two knocks right at the limit, and keeps knocking 30 seconds after the limit. (For example, if it is a 3 minutes speech, one knock at 2'30", two knocks at 3'00", and keeps knocking after 3'30".)

Debaters do not have preparation time between the speeches. As soon as a judge calls on, they may move to the speech floor.

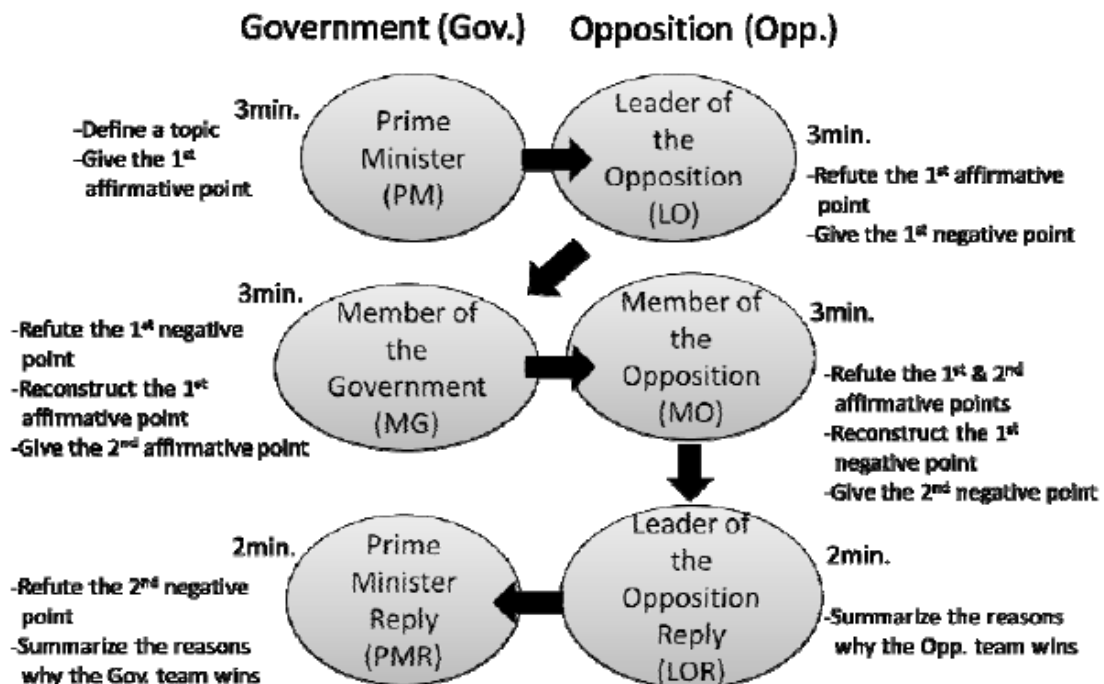


Figure 1. Flow of the debate round

(5) Contents of the speech

The first four speeches are called 'Constructive Speech,' and the last two called 'Reply Speech.' Speakers can introduce new arguments in all constructive speeches but not in reply speeches. Reply speeches may refer to the arguments discussed in constructive speeches.

(6) Point of Information [POI]

During an opponent's speech, debaters can give a question or comment within 15 seconds by announcing "On the point, sir." or "POI." This is so-called Point of Information (POI). Speakers can either accept a request saying "Yes, please." or refuse it saying "No, thank you."

POI is allowed anytime during a debate round. When POI get rejected, debaters can make another POI right after 15 seconds since then. A judge keeps the stopwatch going during POI.

(7) After the debate

Debaters shake their hands with an opponent team at the end of the round.

(8) Judge

A judge is supposed to be a person who owns general knowledge based on newspapers. The judgment should not include personal thoughts, professional knowledge, and prejudice as much as possible and be subjective. Judging criteria are composed of "Matter" and "Manner" as described below.

[Matter]

- Give a reason for an assertion
- Make a counterargument
- Give an explanation using examples and data
- Active participation in debate with POI

[Manner]

- Clear and understandable presentation (voice volume, speaking speed, eye contacts, gesture, etc.)
- Easy-to-follow format (the order of argument points, numbering, signposts)
- Play a role of individual speakers

(9) Others

- Make a speech standing in front of debaters and a judge
- No discussion with team members during a speech
- Stand up to make a POI and get back to seat when unaccepted.
- Decide the speech order before an announcement of the topic

