



Romania Teachers' Training 2025

Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

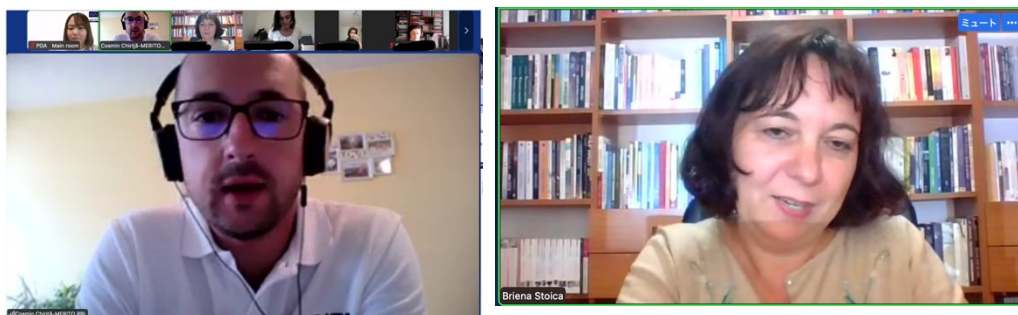
Date : September 20th, Saturday, 2025. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (EET). (3 p.m. to 9 p.m., JST)

Place : Online (Zoom)

Participants : 22 Teachers

Judge : Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa, PDA Staff, PDA Certified Educational Judge

First, Mr. Chiriță and Ms. Stoica gave a comment on the MERITO Romanian Business Leaders Project, covering its objectives, activities, and community. Next, PDA Founder and Director, Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa introduced herself, explained the significance of conducting English debates in class, and explained the rules of PDA style.



Comment by Mr. Chiriță and Ms. Stoica from MERITO

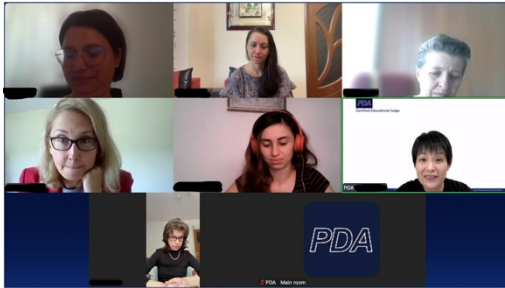


Lecture by Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa

After the lecture, we had three debate practices. Teachers were divided into teams composed of 3~4 members, and the matchups were arranged so that each team would experience Government side, Opposition side, and judge practice at least one time for each role.

The motion for the first round was “*Zoo should be banned.*”

Through the first practice of PDA style English debate, the participants understood the flow of debate and the characteristics of each role. PDA staff were assigned as judges at all tables, and after the debate were over, they gave reasons for the decision of the verdict as well as their personal comments to each speaker.

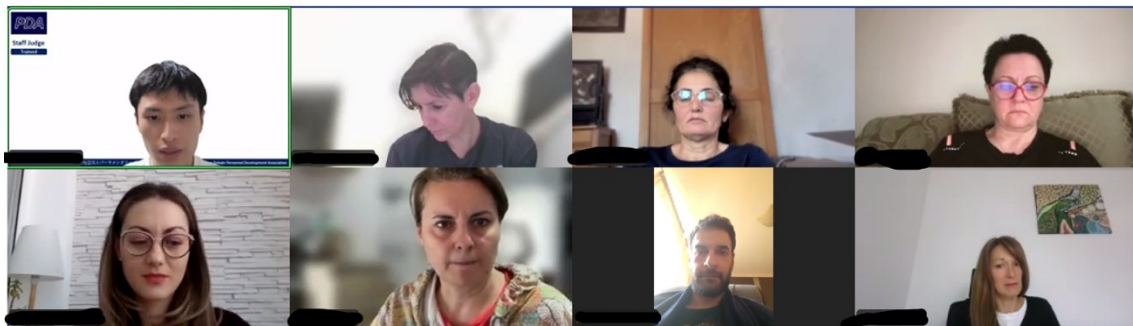


Comment by PDA Certified Educational Judge



Comment by Judge Team

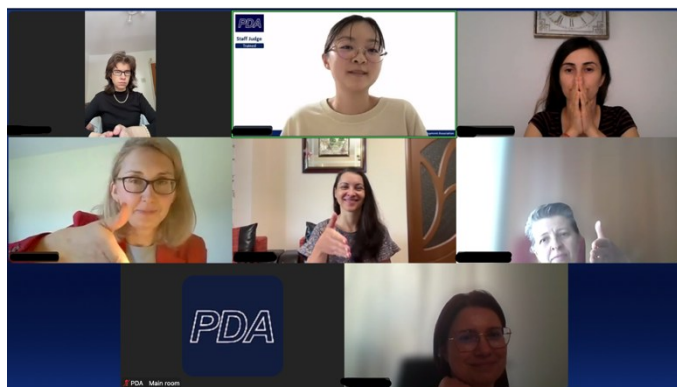
The motion for 2nd round was “*Voting should be mandatory.*” Following the first round, in which the teams struggled with summarizing their arguments, the teams showed their efforts to improve by smoothly deciding on two key points and finalizing their content during the preparation time for this round. The judges' team also determined the winner and clearly explained the reasons.



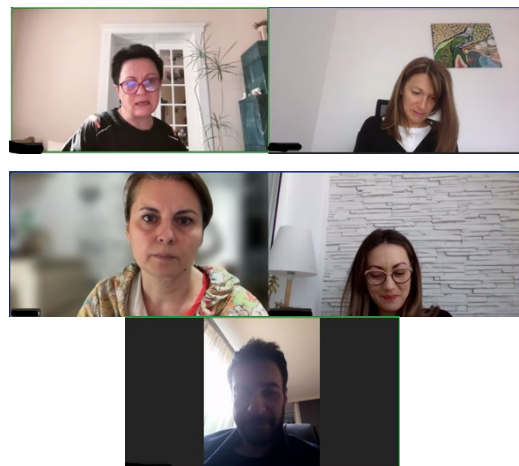
Debate Round

After the Tea break, we had keynote lecture about critical thinking. In the keynote lecture, the essential components for constructing arguments and rebuttals were explained, along with the considerations for judging students.

After the lunch break, we had final round. The motion for final round was ***“AI teacher is better than human teacher.”*** During the preparation time, they followed the argument components explained in the keynote lecture to compare AI and human characteristics, using the AREA structure.



Shaking hands after the round



Preparation time

After the final round, PDA Founder and Director, Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa, gave final comments to clarify the style of debate and to conclude why the skills from parliamentary debate are in demand for the coming era. Finally, the event concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Chiriță and Ms. Stoica from MERITO.

Style of debate

- Prepared (Prepare evidence) →Proof
 - Practice to search information
 - Whether or not there is evidence (sometimes lack of logic)
 - Read aloud (not speaking)
- Impromptu (Parliamentary) →Persuasion
 - Practice persuasion including feelings of human
 - No evidence but Need logic
 - Speak not read aloud

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Certified Educational Judge

PDA_Chihiro Nakagawa

Lecture by Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa

Participants' voices (excerpts from questionnaires)

- It was very inspiring, thank you very much. I enjoyed this a lot and I learned interesting teaching strategies for my classes.
- I found this webinar very engaging and inspiring. It was a valuable experience that gave me both practical insights and new perspectives.
- Pleasant atmosphere and building ideas penetrated the whole session. Thank you very much!
- I had a lot to learn from the speakers and the participants as well. I leave with many useful and applicable things. Thank you!
- engaging, innovative, insightful, creative, constructive, inspiring
- I enjoyed the energy, the theoretical input
- It was very useful and I will do more research on this style of debate.
- The hosts were well prepared and very clear about the tasks
- I learned a lot of new things regarding the debate and I liked the fact that the activity was so interactive
- Extremely useful, engaging. A captivating and enjoyable experience. Thank you!
- The class was very well organised and we got to be in all of the PDA debate's roles, I can say that the class has met my expectations and I consider that I can start trying to have debates with my students. Thank you!
- It was really helpful to get the support (handouts/ structure of the Debate, prompts to include in our speeches) in order to be prepared to participate in a Debate.
- It was useful to be in the shoes of my students as a debater on both sides. Also, the friendly atmosphere and the really professional manner of the hosts.
- I really enjoyed the webinar because it gave me the opportunity to collaborate with different teachers, discuss interesting topics, and share ideas. I also appreciated learning more about the theory behind debating, which added a valuable perspective to the experience.
- It provided me insight on PDA debate style. From a professional point of view, I think it's easier to use in schools, especially with secondary school kids than the parliamentary debate.