

Shanghai Novice Debate Open 2022



Debater Briefing

THAT IT IS
JUSTIFIED TO
TORTURE
TERRORISTS



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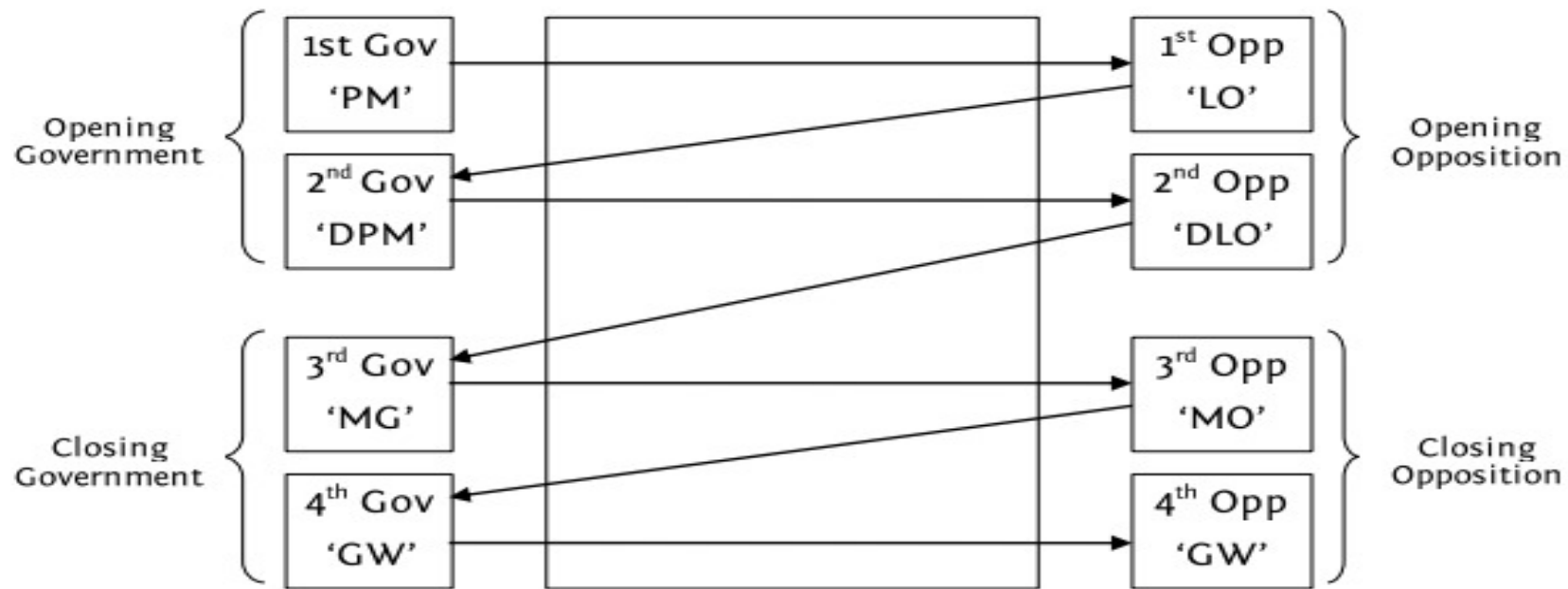
- Basics of BP debating
- Tournament Organization
- Notes on Breaks and Organization

BP Basics

SNDO 2022 is conducted in the British Parliamentary debating style.

- 15 minutes preparation
- Four teams debating one motion
- **7 minute speeches**
- Points of information (between **1 and 6 minutes**)
- No internet research allowed
- More Info: <https://cce.bard.edu/files/British-Parliamentary-Debate-Format.pdf>

Order of Speeches



Motions

- Debates are debated around 'motions'
- Example: This House Would Ban Zoos
- Government Teams must support the motion
- Opposition Teams must oppose the motion



OPPOSING THE MOTION

Opposition **need not** argue for an alternative to the Government policy. However, if the motion type allows for a policy, Opposition **may** choose to advance a **counter-proposition** or an **alternative**.



COUNTER-PROPOSITIONS

If OO chooses to advance a counter-proposition, they have the **same level of fiat as OG**.

Counter-props **must be**:

- ✓ Advanced by the Leader of Opposition
- ✓ Mutually exclusive to the model proposed by OG

Counter-props **alter the comparative** in the debate.

- ✓ All teams must compare the policy proposed by Government to the counter-prop
- ✓ Teams argue about the relative benefits and harms of the OG model and the OO counter-prop

ALTERNATIVES



Opposition teams sometimes choose to suggest a range of viable alternative arguments and solutions instead of committing to a single counter-proposition.

However, **unlike counter-props**:

- ✓ Alternatives do not alter the comparative in the debate
- ✓ CO is not bound by whatever alternatives OO suggests, whereas they must abide by the OO counter-proposition (if one is suggested)
- ✓ Opposition teams do not have fiat power when suggesting alternatives, and Government teams may question the feasibility of said alternatives

In order to be persuasive, alternatives should be:

- ✓ Detailed and substantiated
- ✓ Mutually exclusive to OG's model

British Parliamentary (BP) Debate

Created for the Bard Debate Union by David Register

<u>Prime Minister</u>	Opening Government (OG)	<u>Deputy Prime Minister</u>	<u>Leader of Opposition</u>	Opening Opposition (OO)	<u>Deputy Leader of Opposition</u>
<p>The job of the PM is to present a debatable, persuasive case in support of the motion. To this end, a speaker should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Define the motion. This might include: defining specific terms in the motion, advocating specific policy change(s), and/or articulating the roles of relevant stakeholders. ○ Provide a complete case. Establish that a problem exists, and provide reasons why your team's advocacy resolves it. If necessary, signpost the new material your partner will add. ○ Avoid being too clever. Aim to set up a <i>debatable</i> case that supports the most obvious interpretation of the motion. 	<p>The DPM closes for the Opening Government, and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rebuild. Defend your team's case by answering the LO's refutation. Reiterate the key elements of your team's position. ○ Refute the LO's case. Be specific. Criticize what you've just heard. Compare it to your team's position. ○ Follow through on promises. If your partner declared that you would present new material in support of your team's position, do so. At the very least, add depth to the original case by providing additional details, examples, or explanation. 		<p>The Leader should oppose the motion and the case presented by the PM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refute the PM's case. Be specific. Criticize the case you've just heard. ○ Oppose. Why is the motion itself problematic? State your team's position and provide reasoning to support it. As you prepare for this speech, consider that the motion might possibly do more harm than good, foreclose better alternatives, or be tethered to a destructive worldview. ○ Recognize that the first two tasks on this list are not always separate. A good PM speech will allow you to oppose both at the same time. 	<p>The DLO concludes the first half of the debate for the Opposition, and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rebuild. Defend your partner's case from the DPM's refutation. Reiterate the key elements of your team's position. ○ Refute. Address new, relevant material presented by the DPM. Illustrate any important tension(s) between the PM & DPM speeches. Highlight LO refutation that was ignored or insufficiently covered by the DPM. ○ Add depth. Add something to your team's case. You can provide additional examples, explanation, or analysis to support a previous claim. You can present a new argument. 	
<u>Member of Government</u>	Closing Government (CG)	<u>Government Whip</u>	<u>Member of Opposition</u>	Closing Opposition (CO)	<u>Opposition Whip</u>
<p>The Member of Government opens the second half of the debate, and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refute. Address any new contribution(s) from the DLO. Consider engaging in holistic refutation of the OO, or even preempting what the CO is likely to claim. ○ Offer an "extension." Add something new. You might choose to present an entirely new argument, or you might opt to develop an important argument that the OG underdeveloped. ○ Explain how the CG's position fits into the debate. Avoid contradicting the OG case. Explain why what you're adding is important <i>in relation to</i> the OG case. 	<p>The Government Whip should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the 2-3 most relevant concepts in the debate. These concepts should serve as the main points of your speech. At some point, explain why your conceptual breakdown is the best way to view the debate. ○ Sell the "extension." Demonstrate how your team's material relates to other important content in the debate. Articulate why your position defeats the most important arguments presented by the Opposition. ○ Refute. Answer the contribution made by the Member of Opposition. Engage in holistic refutation of the Opposition. ○ Avoid making new arguments. You may, however, add details or examples in support of previous claims. 		<p>The Member of Opposition should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refute. Answer the new material presented by the Member of Government. Consider engaging in holistic refutation of the entire Proposition bench. Look for and exploit contradictions/tensions between the OG & CG. ○ Make a contribution. Add something new. You might choose to present a new argument or to further develop an OO argument. ○ Explain how the CO's contribution fits into the debate. Illustrate why your position is important <i>in relation to</i> the OO case. Avoid contradicting the OO if you can. 	<p>The Opposition Whip closes the debate, and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the 2-3 most relevant concepts in the debate. The CG will have just done this. Identify <i>different</i> concepts. Argue why your concepts <i>are more relevant than</i> the CG's concepts in understanding the competing claims. The concepts you identify should then serve as the main points of your speech. ○ Sell your contribution. Explain how your team's position relates to other important arguments in the debate. ○ Avoid making new arguments. You may, however, add details or examples in support of previous claims. 	

Closing Teams are expected to have new material (extensions)

- New arguments
- New rebuttal
- New examples
- New analysis or application of existing arguments
- New metric/criteria

The best extensions are original, well proven, and important to the debate

Points of Information



- ✓ Offered between 1st and 6th minute of the speaker's speech
- ✓ Offered by the opposing bench
- ✓ Up to 15 seconds

Debaters

- ✓ Accept **at least 1 POI per speaker**
- ✓ Take 3 POIs across both speakers (encouraged)
- ✗ “Coded POIs” where speakers reveal the content of the POI before being accepted (e.g. “on the law!”)
- ✗ “Points of Clarification” used to ask POIs, instead of being used to clarify aspects of the model

Judges

- ✓ Track and evaluate POI engagement during debates
- ✓ Comment on POI engagement in feedback to teams
- ✓ If a speaker did not accept a POI, remind the room to accept POIs after the speaker's speech
- ✓ Intervene by calling “order” if the person offering the POI is still speaking after 15 seconds, or after being cut off by the speaker

Evaluating POIs

- ✓ Evaluate the quality of POIs and POI responses as you would any other piece of analysis in the debate
- ✓ Failure to accept a POI indicates a **reduced level of engagement**. You may:
 - ✓ Lower speaker scores for the speaker that did not accept POIs to reflect their reduced engagement
 - ✓ Adjust the margin of victory for teams
 - ✓ Flip close calls between teams
- ✗ Automatic loss for failing to take a POI
- ✗ Seeing a lack of POI as equivalent to taking a damaging POI
- ✗ Penalize speakers who were not offered any POIs

Motions Types

Types

- Policy motions: THW (Would)
- Values motions: THS/THO/THR/THP/THBT (Supports, Opposes, Regrets, Prefers, Believes That)
- Actor motions: TH, as X, would

Motion Clarifications

- If you need clarification on a motion, ask the CA team
- Set up debates fairly and not unnecessarily narrowly (e.g. to a certain country)

Motion Type: This House Prefers

- ✓ Value judgment debate on truth of statement
- ✓ Opposition cannot select their own comparative
- ✓ Must defend comparative provided by the motion

THP X to Y

THP conscription by lottery as a means of enrolling people into the army to the aggressive recruitment of volunteers

Government argues for conscription by lottery



Opposition argues for the **aggressive recruitment of volunteers**

THP X

THP conscription by lottery as a means of enrolling people into the army

Government argues for conscription by lottery



Opposition argues for **enrollment policies in the status quo**

THP a world in which X

THP a world in which organized religion does not exist

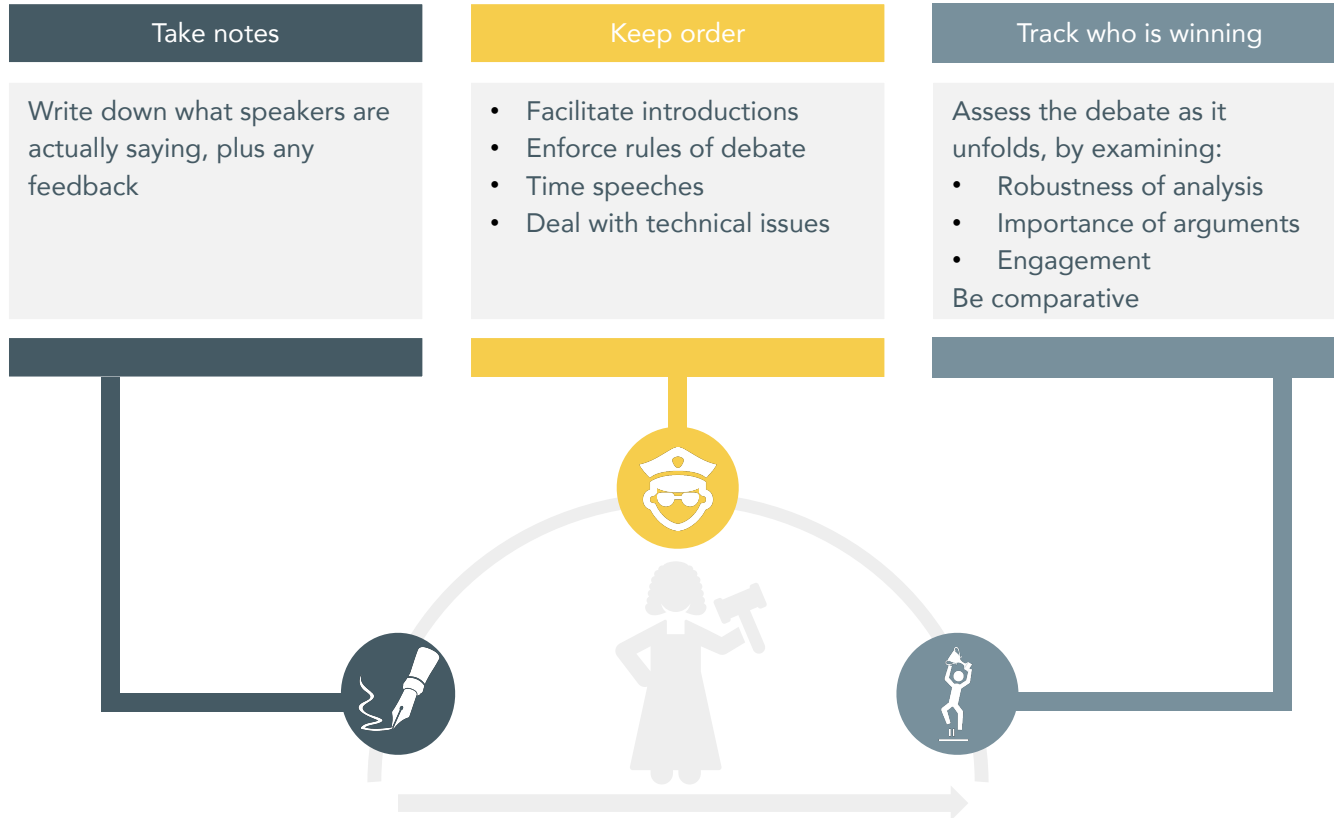
Government argues for an **alternative world where organized religion never existed**



Opposition argues for **the world as it is in the status quo**

- ✓ Discuss how the alternative world would have developed without organized religion (similar to counterfactuals in THR motions)
- ✓ Use common sense in assessing when the new world diverged from the status quo
- ✗ Arguments about the transition between status quo and the alternative world (e.g. discussing backlash from the demise of organized religion)

A judge's role

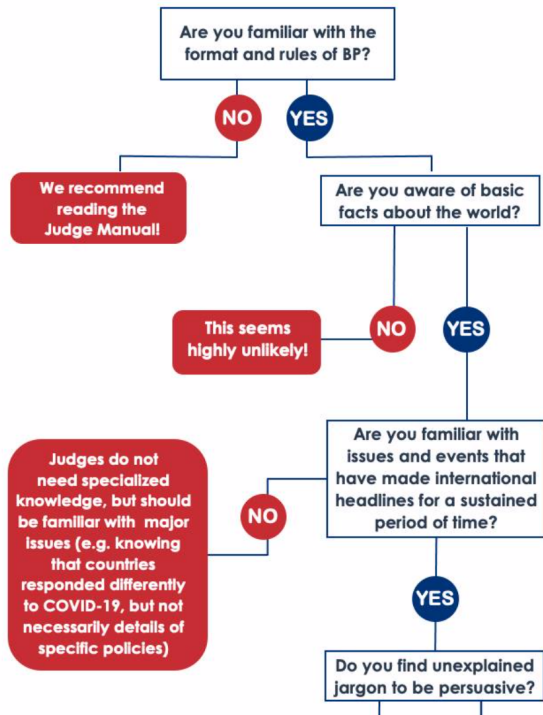


Judges are ‘Average intelligent voters’

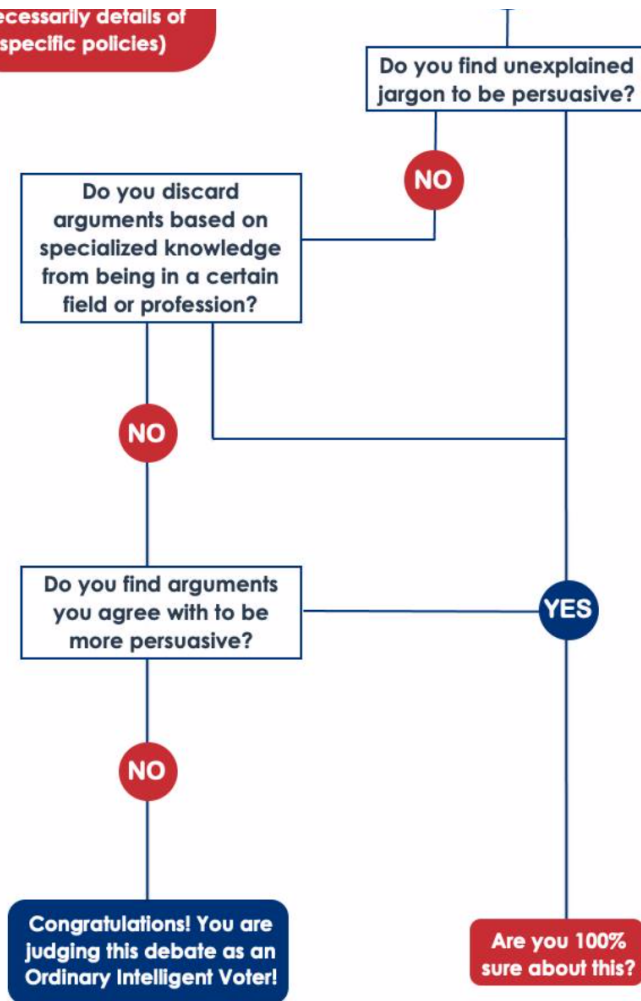
- Does not have any pre-formed views about any topic
- Does not come from anywhere in particular
- Does not understand any technical vocabulary or examples which are not well explained
- Has a general knowledge of world history / current affairs
- Is capable of logically following and analysing a debate
- Is familiar with the rules of BP

Are You an Ordinary Intelligent Voter?

Take this quiz to find out!



necessarily details of specific policies)



Types of arguments

- No one type of argument is automatically more persuasive than another
 - e.g. ‘Principled’ vs. ‘practical’
 - e.g. ‘Structural’ vs. ‘empirical’
- Ordinary people can and often are persuaded by value-based or moral arguments (provided of course, that they are proven). These should not be dismissed by judges due to a lack of ‘practical impacts’.

How important is ‘style’

- **Subjective judgements of good style should not carry any weight in judging BP debating at an international tournament.** But this does not mean style is irrelevant.
- Reasons are more compellingly delivered to the degree that:
 - They are comprehensible.
 - They clearly and precisely convey the speaker’s meaning.
 - They effectively convey the emotional, moral, practical or other significance of the speaker’s claim.
- It is tempting but wrong to think that arguments in debating can be assessed through pure, cold, emotionless logic unaffected by language or tone. Making and assessing arguments is impossible unless one attaches a certain significance to outcomes, principles or claims, and appropriate use of language and tone can convey such significance.
- Rhetoric cannot replace logical analysis - but rhetoric can amplify the effect of your logical analysis. Persuasive rhetoric does not necessarily need to be complex, so long as it communicates the significance of your point.

Important Considerations

- There is no such thing as an automatic win/loss
- Teams do not 'fall out of the debate' if unresponded to
- There is no double punishment for rule violations / contradictions. The advantage of that violation is ignored, Judges should not auto 4th a team if they squirrel or contradict themselves.
- Equity Violations should be handled by the Equity Team. Teams should not be penalized for equity violations anymore than how the violation detracts from the persuasiveness of the argument.

**During the
Tournament**

General Expectations

- We expect all teams, judges, and observers to be respectful throughout the tournament
- Everyone should be punctual and closely monitor the announcement channels
- All teams should stay on the Zoom call for the duration of each day
- Unless its during a debate, everyone should remain muted throughout Orgcom and CA announcements
- Refer to the equity briefing for detailed regulations

Before Rounds

- Draws will be released on tabby cat and displayed on the Zoom call 10 minutes prior to the Motion release
- Teams should remain in the main call until motions have been released
- Once motion release is completed all teams shall move to their debate rooms
- All teams should be renamed, with one or both members present in the room.

During Prep

- All teams should be muted inside of the debate rooms
- Team members are responsible for communicating with their teammates on other platforms during prep
- No use of online research is allowed. No communicating with non team members is allowed
- Please message the Orgcom or CAP on Zoom for any motion clarifications

During Rounds

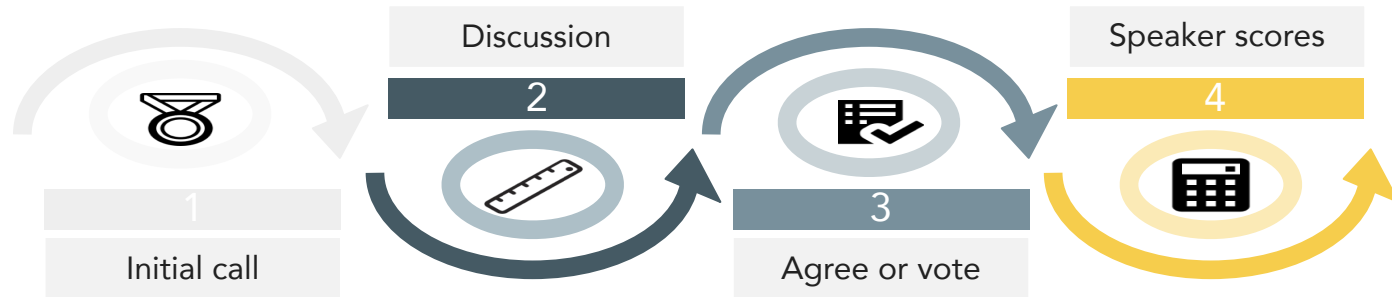
- Debaters are expected to follow the directions of the chairs in each room
- Teams should indicate their speaking order, POI preference, and (optional) pronouns into the chat. Please write the names listed on the tab so that there is no confusion for the ballot.
- All debaters must remain muted during other's speeches
- Speakers should open their cameras if internet allows
- There must be no 'badgering' (excessive poi asking) during speeches

After rounds

- After rounds teams will wait in their debate rooms for the judge(s) to finish deliberating. They are free to socialize with other debaters in their room during that time.
- The decision of Chairs and the results of the round are FINAL
- After the OA is finished teams may ask for additional feedback if time allows
- Teams should return to main hall after round ends to await the next round
- Feedback should be given to the chair of each round through tabby

Deliberation

- Deliberations should at maximum take only 20 minutes
 - Allow a short time for the panel to consider their decision/notes
 - Ask each member of the panel for their order, before stating their own
 - Guide deliberation discussion
 - Facilitate a vote, if necessary
 - Ensure a completed ballot within 15 minutes (suggest calling at a vote at 13 minutes)
 - Prepare OA to the teams



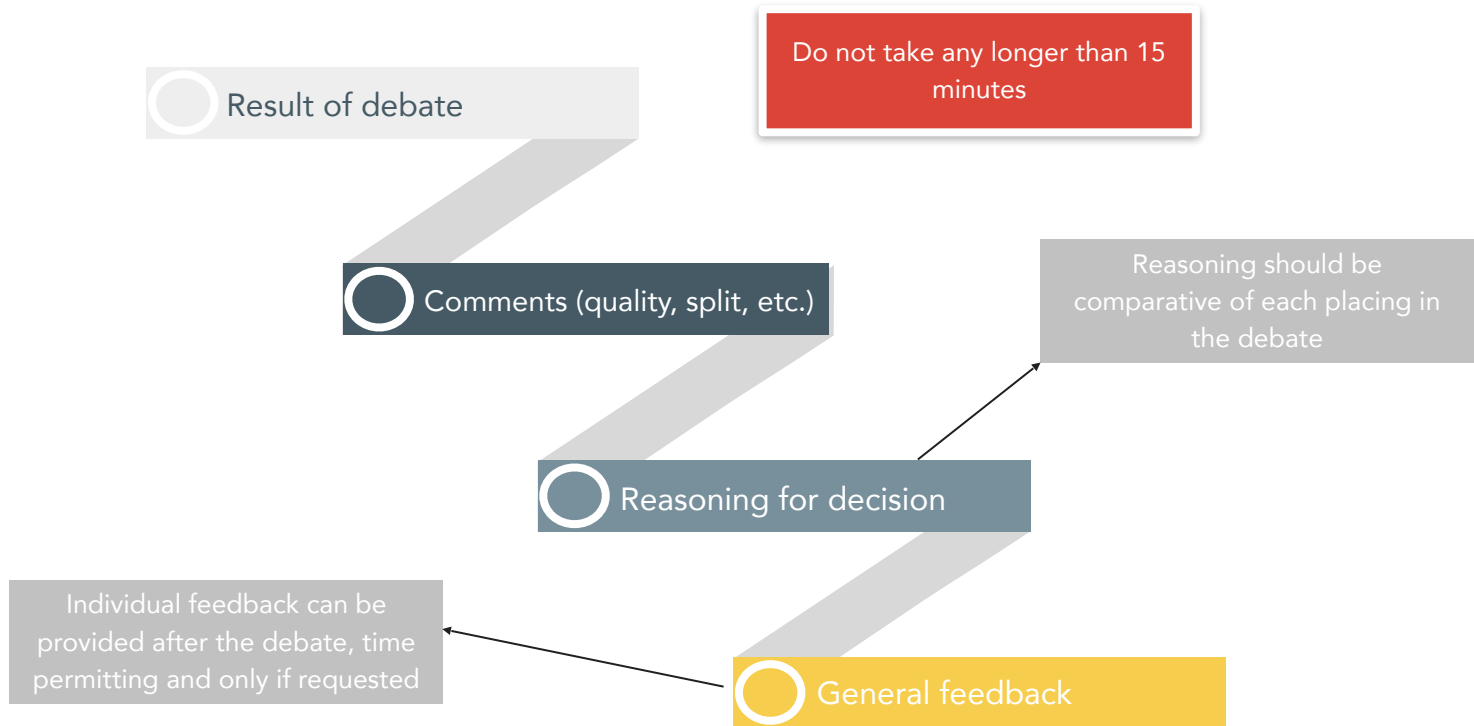
Tournament Rules

- Teams are scored from 1st to 4th (1st=3, 2nd=2, 3rd=1, 4th=0)
- After four rounds teams will first break on points, then total speaks
 - I.e. (Team A: 12pts > Team B 11 pts);
 - I.e. (Team A: 11pts & 632 spks > Team B: 11pts & 628 spks)
- All teams qualify for Open Breaks
- Open Breaks to Quarters (16 teams)
- High School Breaks to Semis (8 teams)

Speaker points

- Judges will give speaker points based off the WUDC speaker scale: <https://scales.imperialdebating.org/speaker.html>
- Most speaker points would be in range from 67-83
- We expect the average speaker points this tournament to be around 75
- Orgcom and CAP will check for general accuracy in the ballot (asking additional clarification for 84s or 65s)
- Please give judge feedback: <https://scales.imperialdebating.org/wing.html>

Oral Adjudication



Check-ins

- All teams must be present for the Check-ins of all rounds on Day 1
- For Day 2, teams must arrive **15 minutes** before their scheduled round
- Teams that missed check-in will be cut from the round
- Teams that failed to arrive for elimination rounds will be replaced with swing teams

Iron-person Rules

- Any team that Iron-persons (debates with one member instead of two) will be judged normally. Judges will act as if the second speech is given by a different speaker
- After the rankings and points have been given, the speech with lower speaker points will be assigned 60 speaker points to the missing teammate.
- DO NOT IRON-PERSON UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

Equity Issues

- Equity Team will be announced prior to tournament start date
- All issues of equity can be reported to equity team
- Please follow all instructions on the equity briefing (released later)
- Generally be respectful

Final Considerations

- [illegible]