



**MAFIQ
FOUNDATION**

**MYDT DEBATE
JUDGES TRAINING
PACKET**

What's In Here?

- This document serves to be the baseline rule set and defined criteria for the MYDT debate tournament as whole and the individual debate rounds themselves.
- You will find how individual debater's scores are broken down, and how the winning team is determined (*they can be different from the score!*)
- This is called the 'judges packet' but coaches and competitors are encouraged to reference this material as well.
- Please make sure you watch one or both of these sample debates to familiarize yourself with the format and judging. It is very helpful in understanding how POIs work and how to conduct the debate.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diyARGpAOf0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cibuh0h3jyU>
- If anything is not in this document or is unclear please reach out to MYDT or myself directly and we will update with any clarifications.

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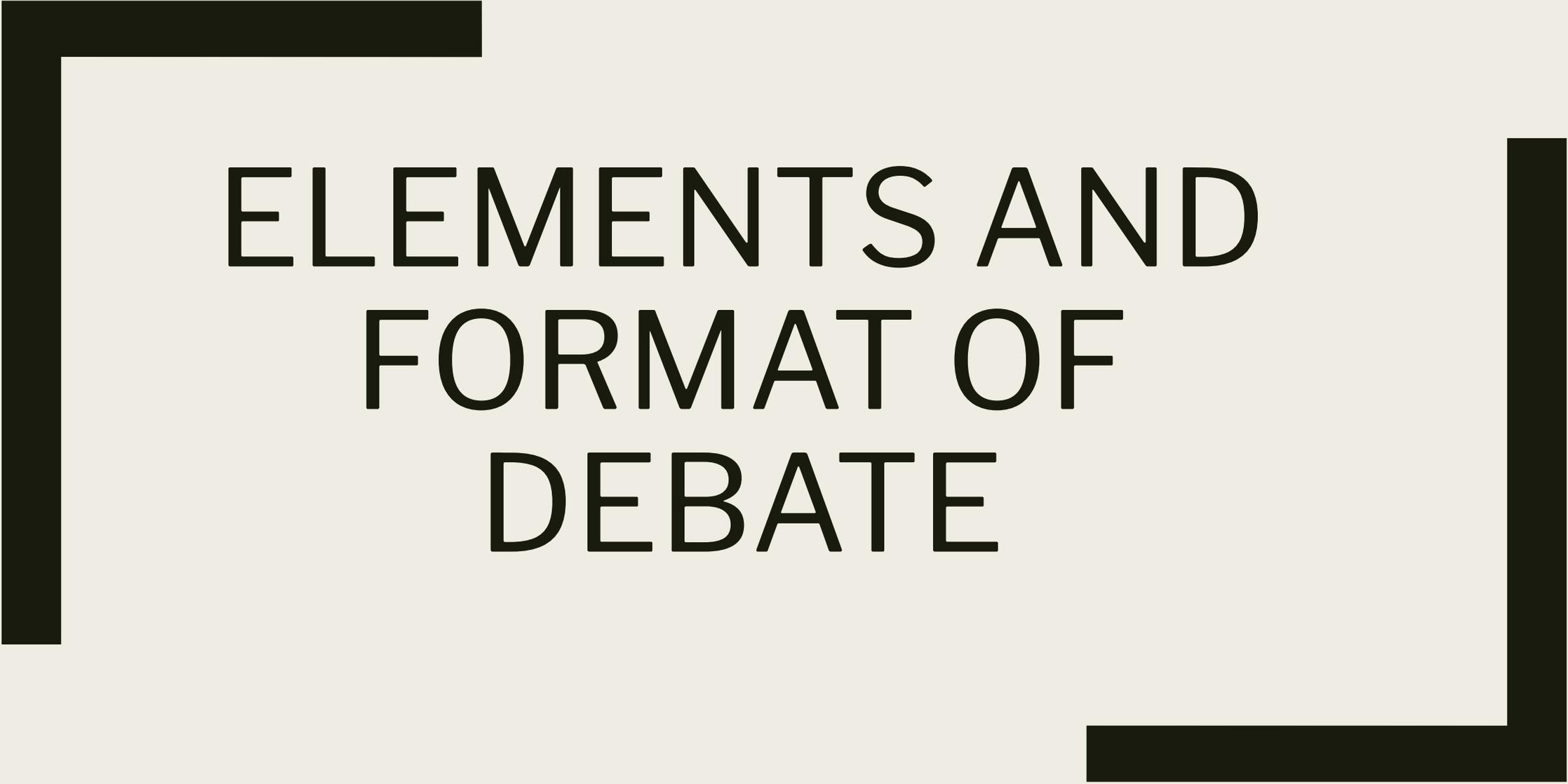
TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

Brief FYI

- 1st and 2nd Speakers Get 5 Minutes to Speak, 3rd Speakers Get 4 Minutes to Speak
- A time warning will be given with one minute remaining.
- After each preliminary round, judges will provide feedback, the best speaker and the winner of the round with an explanation as to why the winning team won.
- We will insha Allah also be providing scores after each round – pending review of new tabulation mechanisms.

Tournament Structure

- Scoring and advancement is done the same way as every national debate and mock trial competition.
- Each debate has two elements – numerical scoring of each speaker on their debate performance based on the rubric & the actual winning team of the debate based on the arguments and refutations made.
 - *These two elements are semi-independent of each other. The higher scoring team can still lose the round, and vice versa.*
- In the preliminary rounds the numerical scoring is the sole determinant of who advances in the knockout stage. The teams with the highest average score across the preliminary rounds will move on.
- In the knockout rounds it is the actual winning team of the debate based on the arguments and refutations made that advances to the next round. Numerical scoring is only used to determine the best speaker of the round.
- This is done to ensure the teams that perform the best advance. Each speaker is judged on 4 separate criteria. For a team over 3 preliminary rounds this amounts to 36 data points to compare each team against. That number gets even higher if there is more than one judge per round or if we have 4 preliminary rounds.

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ELEMENTS AND FORMAT OF DEBATE

What is the role of the judge?

- Keep accurate time
- Keep notes during the rounds to be able to track arguments and refutations (to determine winner)
- Accurately score each speaker. Take your time in between speakers to do so and do not leave it to the end of the debate. You will not remember.
- Decide which team has won (based on the merits of the points made)
- Decide the best speaker (highest score – if this doesn't correlate then something may be wrong)
- State the reasons for the decision
- Provide constructive criticism and areas of improvement

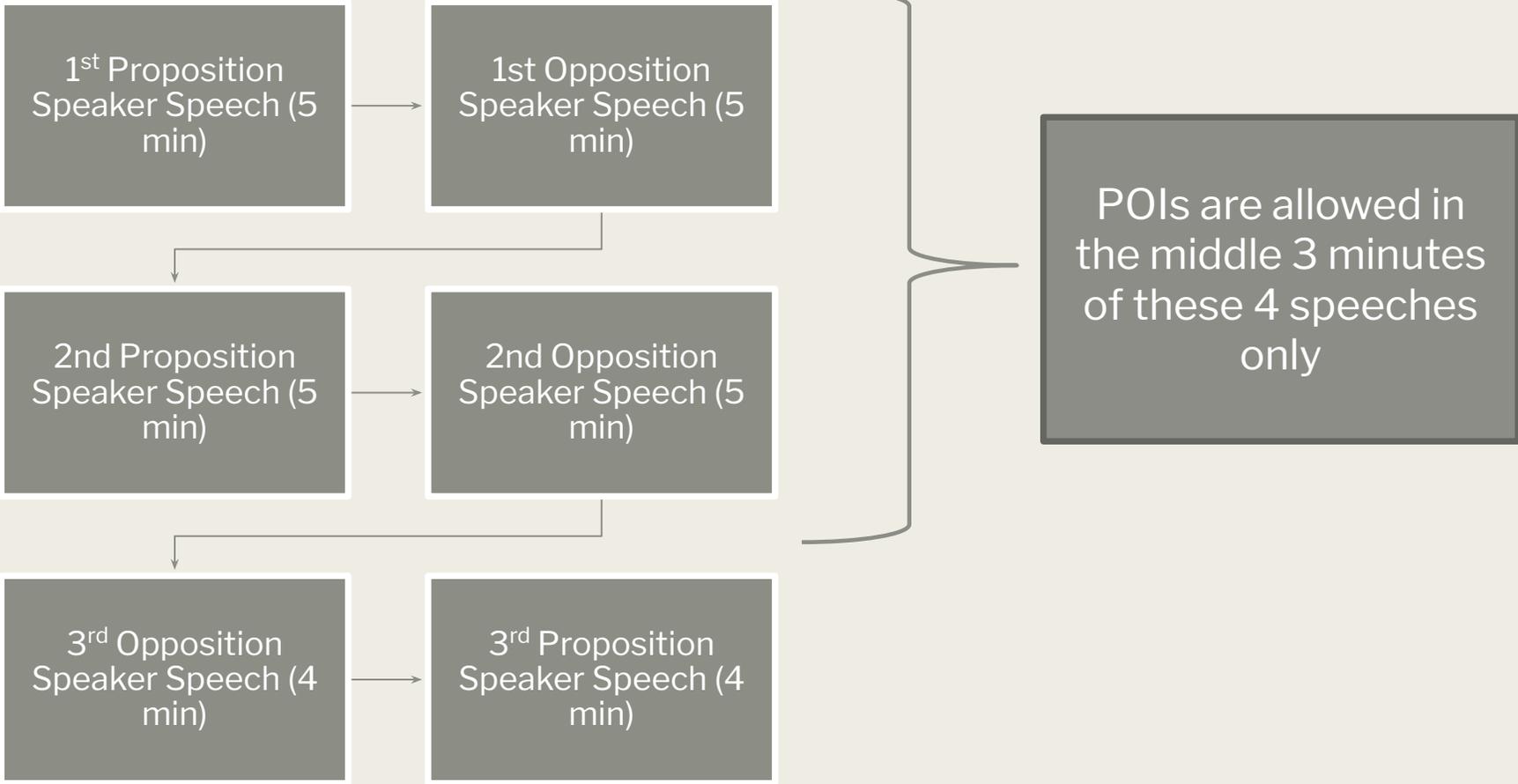
Goal of Debate:

- The goal of debate is to prove your side of topic is correct

- **WRONG!**

- Every debate topic contains two sides, and there are 'correct' and valid positions on both the proposition and opposition side.
- The goal of a team is to persuade the judge/s that your side of the topic is more likely to be true than the other side.
 - *Convince the judge that: the pros of your position outweigh the pros of the opposing team*
 - *Convince the judge that: the cons of your position are less significant than the cons of the opposing team's position*
 - *Convince the judge that: the cons of your position are not as bad as the opposing team is making them out to be*
 - *Convince the judge that: the pros of the opposing team's position are not as good as they are claiming*

Debate Format:



1st Speaker Role – 5 Minutes

- Sets the Definition
 - *Clearly ‘defines’ the topic -sets boundaries of what lies within the scope of the debate and what does not.*
- Provides Team Stance
 - *The direction/strategy of the team’s case*
- Tell the judge on what value/basis they should determine who wins
- Presents Split/ “Road Map”
 - *State arguments of 1st and 2nd speaker*
- Develop 1st speakers Arguments
 - *Analyze and elaborate*

Defining the Topic:

- Each Definition MUST:
 - *Have a Direct Link to the topic*
 - *Narrow the scope of the debate where applicable*
 - *Outline the basis on which the judges should determine the winner of the debate*
 - *Is fair and debatable*
- Unfair Definitions: (Which Opposition can Challenge)
 - *Truisms- a truism is an argument that is considered to be true by the vast majority of people. Example: 'genocide is bad' or 'the north won the civil war'*
 - *Tautology- Not a truism now but will be true in the near future: example: 'Obama should close Guantanamo Bay' (in fact, isn't close yet, but Obama has already decided to close Guantanamo Bay already)*
 - *Squirrels- Wholly unreasonable (we should all eat babies)*
 - *Time/Place Sets- Put the debate specifically In a time. Example: 'We would debate this motion in the context of WW1 1914'*

OPPOSITION DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFINE or REDEFINE.

- “Definition and Stance” Rubric Category: Only the 1st proposition speaker is judged on this element.

2nd Speaker Role – 5 Minutes

- Rebut the previous speaker's arguments and defend your own case
- Presents own arguments (different from 1st speaker)
- Develop your Arguments
 - *Analyze and elaborate*
- Maintain structure and cohesion with 1st speaker

Basics of POIs



- POIs can be accepted or rejected by the speaker
 - Acceptance/rejection should be based on where the speaker currently is in their speech. E.g. if they are in the middle of making a point they should reject the POI.
 - If they have made the point and are not at a critical part in their speech they should accept it.
 - The key is to avoid appearing scared or weak without compromising your time to speak and you must show that you are in control and not the POI people.
 - Ideally POIs should be taken for each point to show that you are open to see what they have to say to your point and show that you are ready to take them on. Usually 2-3 points are good to take. 4 is Ok if needed. 5 is excessive.
- A person giving the POI should make it no more than 10-15 seconds and should be a single statement directed to the speaker ideally to poke a weakness or point out a flaw. You aren't going to win the debate on a single POI.
 - Good POI: "Would you then say that we should also ban all vegetables since some are allergic to them."
 - Bad POI: "Don't you agree that you actually agree with our points and not yours"
- To request a POI you can raise your hand, unmute and say "Point of Information"
- If you are neither called upon, nor told to sit down, you may unmute again and say, "POI" or "Point of Information", "On that point" or the like, again.

3rd Speaker Role – 4 Minutes

- Summarizes the debate, define the CLASHES and MAIN ISSUE of the debate, and most importantly, ***weighs those factors to the judge to highlight how they have won the round.***
- Summarizes the entire debate, looking at the arguments, role fulfillment, main questions which need to be answered to win, referencing the criteria made by 1st speaker. The team's last opportunity to persuade their main points to be the adjudicator and focus on the key issues of the debate
- Cannot Bring New Matter/New Argument
 - *Dock points in Logic and Relevance for bringing up new points*
 - *If something hasn't been said previously that the other team would likely refute, it's a new matter and opposition must not be penalized since they had no chance to refute.*
 - *NOTE: The second speaker of the opposition has not been refuted yet. So the 3rd Prop will be refuting the 2nd Opps point for the first time and this may look like a new point, so be careful of that. (Ideally the Prop should POI so the 2nd Opp so it does not look like a new point, but they don't have to).*

It must not be a mere reiteration of the debate since the judges are taking good notes. It summarizes with the purpose of analyzing and letting the judge know how and why they have won the debate.

Cheering and heckling

- Parliamentary debate allows for the team to cheer for their teammates.
- Debaters may bang lightly on the table and say, “Here, here!” when emphasizing a point their teammate is making or at the beginning and end of each speech.
- Debaters may heckle and say, “Shame!” if their opponent says: something universally accepted as shameful (“It’s OK if we lose a few lives but we will be saving so much money”), a personal insult (“You are just saying that because you are short” or “The opposition members are clearly racist.” or “Well, that’s just one hadith; who cares about that?”) or grossly misrepresent their point.
- Debaters should not heckle just because the other side is disagreeing with their point.
- Debaters may call out Point of Personal Privilege if they have been insulted or if they need to use the bathroom or the like.
- They may also call out Point of Order if an opponent is going against debate rules (a new point in the last speech).

How does a judge approach the debate?

- A judge acts like an average reasonable person
 - *First year university student*
 - *Has no specific knowledge on issues*
 - *A fairly logical person, and listens to reason*
 - *Does not have a personal attachment to the topic*
 - *Is politically correct (penalizes hate speech or any personal attacks by debaters or anything offensive or against Islam)*
- Adjudicators listen to material presented in the debate, and the debate alone
- Ignores personal opinion towards and issue, and judges the debate objectively
- You aren't 'filling in the blanks' for debaters arguments.
- You leave your opinions and mind outside the door.

How does a judge score the debate?

Simple 1-5 scale

1: Poor

2: Below average

3: Just about average – the expected standard for an MYDT high school or middle school debater

4: Above average

5: Excellent

The rubric guide clarifies what an above average/excellent debater looks like.

- *Do not score a debater well if they are obviously reading off the screen/prepared a speech in advance.*
 - *This was observed many times in last year's MYDT tournament.*
 - *Blindly reading articles/other people's conclusions drawn is not logic, reasoning, nor does it demonstrate good delivery. These speeches are often not structured well either and tend to just vomit statistics at the judges. Even if it is the person's own speech, it is not well received in debate. Reading is just not on.*

Rubric/Scoring Categories

Structure: The speaker's speech is organized in a clear, logical way and easy to follow. The speaker effectively synthesizes their speech effortless with previous speeches and effectively integrates opponents arguments into their speech.

Logic & Relevance: Demonstrates a thorough grounding in the topic and fully understands the complexities and nuances involved. Delivers arguments backed with solid reasoning and thorough evidence. Always answers the question, "How does this relate back to the topic?"

Refutation and Clash: Effectively clashes with opponent and responds to all opposing points. Questions the underlying assumptions, strategies and relevance to topic. Demonstrates ability to improvise and quickly responds to opposing points. Effectively uses POIs to weaken opponent's position. Responds to POIs effectively without compromising team's position.

Delivery: Clear mastery of rhetorical devices like humor, pausing for emphasis, and vocal inflection to add depth and character to speech. Speaks passionately and convincingly. Quoting from important figures or texts.

Definition and Stance: The 1st proposition speaker clearly sets the stage for the debate. Defines the topic, narrowing the scope of the debate where applicable, outlines the basis on which the judges should determine the winner of the debate, provides the team's overall stance and strategic approach to topic, clearly states what arguments will be made by 1st and 2nd Speakers

Who Wins?

- **No single element** to determine the winner i.e. “opposition made a single refutation that was never addressed, therefore they must win.”
 - **It is NOT necessarily the team that scores higher points**
 - You should decide the debate based on the criteria offered by the debaters
- Remember:** The burden of proof lies with the Proposition. The Proposition has to prove something. The opposition has to prove them wrong and not necessarily prove the opposite of the topic.
- **Ask these questions** and come to a consensus with fellow judges if more than one.

Did the proposition make a case? In this you will have to look at their line of reasoning, the AREs, and the arguments brought forth. You must go back to your notes and not just the last impression you were left with.

Did the opposition show that the case was either flawed, inadequate or a dangerous opinion in any way? Were there refutations complete?

Were the rejoinders that the proposition brought up adequate in reinstating their stance and did they address all rebuttals brought up?

If the proposition had a sound case and they addressed all rebuttals adequately, they win

If the opposition had brought **arguments** that the proposition could not **satisfy**, then the opposition wins (consider strength of those arguments as well)

Who Wins?

- ***If more analysis is needed in a very close round you can reference the following to weigh the arguments made to determine a winner***

Lets say each side proved one argument conclusively. Then you can look at the significance of the argument overall in the outcome of the debate.



You may also look at what has a greater impact. (One side is talking about saving millions of dollars, the other side is talking about saving lives by avoiding war)



You also look at the probability of the arguments (In the above example, the probability of avoiding war is minimal but saving money is more likely so although avoiding war is better, it may never happen whereas saving money is very probable)



You could also look at any arguments that were dropped. Normally you wouldn't do that if the other side did not pick it up, but in case of a tie, you would.

IMAGINE A VASE

Imagine a vase. The proposition is filling it with water.

The Opposition is trying to empty it.

If they can knock it over- great!, they win. This is rare.

Usually they are poking holes in the vase and water leaks out. The Prop is trying to patch the holes up.

The judge has to determine, if there is significant water left in the vase. If the holes are tiny and leaking slowly or the holes are made at the top of the vase such that the water still remains then yes, Prop wins.

If the holes are small but there is one big hole that the Prop could not plug up, and it is enough to drain most of the water, then opp wins. Or if there holes are at the base of the vase so it drains all the water, Opp wins.



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JUDGING PROCEDURE

Before the Debate Starts

1. Confirm the correct teams are in your room
2. Assign proposition and opposition by doing a coin toss. I find it's easiest to do using Siri or Android Assistant since it verbally announces the toss but use any means you see fit.
 1. Pick one of the two teams, and announce "If the coin lands on heads, this team is proposition". Do not let a team win the coin toss, and have the team pick their side.
 2. Flip the coin then assign the sides accordingly.
3. Fill out all the necessary stuff in the ballot sheet before the debate begins. Ensure all of the following are properly assigned:
 - a. Team Names Correctly Assigned to Prop/Opp
 - b. Each Speaker is correctly assigned to their role
 - c. The correct round number and topic.
4. Greet the room, announce the round # and topic.
5. Review the time warnings before the debate starts. You can be flexible here if debaters ask for something different but ensure it is done before the round starts.
 - a. We found the using the Zoom clap feature with 1 minute remaining seems to work well. You may also hold up one finger for 5-7 seconds to indicate protected times and call out, "TIME" when time is up.
 - b. Once the debater's time is up you can give them 10 seconds or so of grace time to wrap up. You must not take any notes or consider anything that is said after the time is up.

Starting a Round

1. Call up the 1st Speaker, “I now call on the 1st speaker of the proposition team, you have 5 minutes, your time begins when you start your speech.”
2. Start the time once the speaker starts talking.
3. While the speaker is talking, take notes on the arguments being made on your flowchart so you can reference them after the round.
4. Give the debaters the cue for end of protected time after 1 minute.
5. Give the debater their protected time begins/1 minute remaining warning.
6. Give the debater the time is up signal.
7. Once the debater is done with their speech thank them for their remarks.
8. **Take your time to score the debater on your electronic ballot.** Make sure you reference the rubric guide to assist you in finding the correct box that the debater belongs in and then decide your score.
9. Always score right after the speech and do not leave to the end of the debate.
10. Each judge should score individually. No conferring to come to the same score.
11. Proceed to call debaters in order henceforth.
12. Debaters must not ask for prep time between speeches. Judge scoring time is enough for them.

Once the 3rd Speakers Are Up

Announce the following:

1. The timing for these last two speeches is 4 minutes long.
2. No new points and arguments are to be made in these final speeches.
3. They will still receive a time warning with 1 minute remaining in their speech the same way the other speakers have.

Once the debate has concluded, thank the debaters for a good round and say, “The judges will now retreat to deliberate. Once we return we will announce the winner, scores and provide feedback”.

Once isolated from the debate, determine the winner based on the guidelines in the previous section. Determine the best speaker by seeing which debater had the highest average score across all the judges. You must confer about who won the debate but need not confer on the best speaker. The scores will determine that.

Feedback and announcing the winner.

After deliberation start by providing feedback to the competitors. The goal is to help them improve in the later rounds, so avoid spending too much time on specific arguments and more so fundamental skills they can build on. You may give individual and general feedback depending on how much time you have.

Finally, announce who won the debate and the best speaker. Explain fully why they won the debate. Tell them the key factors you weighed when determining the winner and how the winning team met them. Ask if they have any questions and answer them.

If you have any questions while deciding the winner or any issues that came up in the debate that you are unfamiliar with, please go to the tab room and seek help. Please do not make up any rules or decisions that you may be unfamiliar with.

Senior judges may be paired with new judges/trainees. In case of difference of opinion on winners, the senior judge gets to make the final decision.

Important Points to Remember

- Logic and soundness of arguments and refutations is of utmost importance.
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- We ask the judges to judge by the criteria put forward by the debaters themselves.
- Please do not use any personal biases or opinions or preferences/beliefs in determining who won.
- Remember burden of proof lies with Proposition. Did they make a case? Did they answer all refutations and points of the opposition adequately. Did they fully make the case. Then they win. If the opposition poked holes that they could not fill, not left any arguments of opp unanswered or inadequately answered etc. then they lose.
- Do not consult with other judges when scoring the debaters.
- **Study the rubric well in advance of the tournament to expedite scoring time!** Keep a print out next to you while scoring and refer to it as needed.
- Beware of difference in public speaking and debating. Do not let statistics, quotations impress you. They are only important if they help demonstrate or prove a point and just as important as an example that does the same thing.

Case Example

- Say the 3rd speaker's rebuttal is an excellent summation of the proposition's arguments and justified refutations. However, though he/she may provide an excellent summary, say the points they summarized were not quite as excellent. So, while the speaker's arguments were not very strong (because the whole team's arguments were not), he/she did an excellent job of working with what they had. How should judges weigh on something like that? Can we give the speaker high individual points and still have the opposition win?
 - *Absolutely. It happens more often than you would think that the team with higher cumulative points loses the debate and the team that scores lower points wins the debate. Also the **best speaker could be from the losing team.** When scoring, you as a judge should score the individual speakers right after their speech. This is a score for only their speech. However, when deciding who won or lost the debate, the scores should have nothing to do with it*

Next you answer the following questions:

Did the proposition make a case? In this you will have to look at their line of reasoning, the AREs, and the arguments brought forth.

Did the opposition show that the case was either flawed, inadequate or a dangerous opinion in any way? Were there refutations complete? Look for the 4-step refutation or other complete ways of refutation.

Were the rejoinders that the proposition brought up adequate in reinstating their stance and did they address all rebuttals brought up?



APPENDIX

Appendix: Actual Rubric



MYDT Rubric
(Word Doc)

Appendix: Timing, Inter-Team Comms

1. Timing

- TIMING SUMMARY: speech: up to 5 or 4 minutes;
- CAVEAT: The judge of each debate is the ultimate arbiter of time.
- NOTE: At the end of the hour allotted for each debate, all breakout rooms will automatically close and everyone must go back to their designated rooms.

2. Communication

- Under no circumstances should debaters receive instruction from coaches, parents, or anyone else other than their teammates while the debate is in session. As noted above, during a speech, a speaker cannot receive help from anyone, including a teammate. If this happens, it will be considered cheating and the team will be disqualified.

Appendix: Impromptu Prep and Zoom Etiquette

4. Impromptu Debates

Teams will be assigned prop/opp sides during 15-20 minute prep time.

5. Zoom/Virtual Etiquette:

- All debaters will be required to have their webcam turned on when speaking.
- Everyone signed into the MYDT 2023 Zoom meeting must follow the following name designations (*cf.* “Logistics”, below).
 - Debaters
 - In the **main room**: Name + Team (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, MUNA 1”)
 - In the **breakout room**: Name + Speaking Position (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, Prop 1”).
- **CAMERA SUMMARY**: (a) everyone (including spectators) has their camera ON prior to the debate; (b) once debate commences, everyone turns their camera OFF, except the debaters and judge(s). All debaters must have their camera on during the debate. Judges should be able to monitor activity of all debaters inasmuch as they can.
- Judges will use the Zoom “clap” feature 1 minute after the speaker begins and on minute prior to stop time and will call time at stop time, or another method confirmed by the judges and team before the round starts. They may also hold up one finger for 5 seconds to indicate end of protected time.

Appendix: Connection Issues

6. Internet Interruption

- **In the event that a speaker's speech drops or becomes incomprehensible because e.g., the speaker's device malfunctions or because of Wi-Fi/internet connection issues, the speaker must immediately call into the MYDT 2021 Zoom meeting and will be directed back to their debate to complete their speech. Call-in information will be made available in advance.**
- **In the event the speaker is unable to call into the Zoom meeting, they may take other measures such as calling a teammate who may put them on speakerphone.**
- **Please note that a teammate may NOT speak on behalf of the dropped speaker.**
- **The speaker will not get an extension in speaking time in case of interruption. E.g., if the Prop 1 speaker's internet drops at minute 2 of their 5 minute speech, and it takes another minute to call in, they will only get another 2 minutes to complete their speech.**
- **The judges will determine their score based on what the speaker could communicate comprehensibly. E.g., in the above example, Prop 1 only got 3 minutes of speaking time, and they will be judged on those three minutes. The standard is not reduced for this speaker. They will be scored the same as someone who spoke for 3 minutes out of their five in any other circumstance.**

Questions? – If you require any clarification on the rules/guidelines here please contact us and we will update this document with clarifications.

