

## Rules for the ESE Symposium Debates

The purpose of these rules is to define some goals and procedures of the debates so that, to the extent possible, everyone will enter the debates with a shared set of expectations.

These rules are designed to apply to the framework for debate rather than the substance.

They are framed in ways that attempt to allow many degrees of freedom in regard to debaters' creativity.

Sanctions for a violation of Section 4 of the Rules of Debating and Judging (rules that apply during the debate) shall be the province of the judge.

Charges of violations of any rules other than those in Section 4 should be taken to the Tournament Director.

### RULES OF DEBATING AND JUDGING

#### 1. Resolution

The resolution for the debates will be:

Teams will have 10 minutes after being informed of their side of the resolution before their debates to talk as partners about their case.

#### 2. Objective of the debate

The proposition team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition team must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition team's case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition team has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner; otherwise the opposition will be declared the winner.

#### 3. Before the debate

The proposition team, if they wish, may use the room assigned for debate for their 10 minutes of preparation. If the proposition team uses the debating room for preparation, both the judge and the opposition must vacate the room until the time for the debate to begin.

#### 4. During the debate

A. Debaters may only bring paper copies of any notes, quotations, or statistics they wish to use during the debate. No digital materials, props, or drawn diagrams may be used. All facts, arguments, and the like must be expressed orally. In the event further explanation of specific information is requested, the debater should provide details sufficient to allow the debater to understand the connection between the information and the claim being argued.

#### B. Format of the debate

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 6 minutes

First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes

Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes  
Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes  
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 3 minutes  
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes

\*Note: there is no preparation time allowed between speeches. Speakers are expected to immediately follow the speech given before them.

### C. Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches

Introduction of new arguments is appropriate during all constructive speeches. However, debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches except that the proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in his or her rebuttal to refute arguments that were first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.

### D. Points of Information

A debater may request a point of information—either verbally or by rising—at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor has the discretion to accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information.

### E. Points of Order

If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that his or her opponent has violated one of these Rules of Debating and Judging, he or she may address the Speaker of the House with a point of order. Once recognized by the Speaker of the House, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the Speaker of the House, the accused may briefly respond to the point of order. The Speaker of the House will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: point well taken, point not well taken, or point taken under consideration. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.

### F. Points of Personal Privilege

At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he or she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. The Speaker will then rule on whether or not the comments were acceptable.

The time used to state and address a point of personal privilege will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Like a point of order, a point of personal privilege is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor transgressions. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

## 5. After the debate

1. After the final rebuttal, the judge(s) will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and return it to the ballot staff. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and returned to the ballot staff. Oral comments are not required from judges, though they are encouraged.
2. Debaters or coaches will refrain from arguing with judges' decisions or comments. Debaters or coaches who harass judges may be withdrawn from the tournament.