

1) Definitions

- a) Defining the resolution is the responsibility of the Affirmative team. The first speaker must reasonably define key words in the resolution.
- b) The Affirmative shall not define the resolution in such a way as to give them a competitive advantage not inherent in the resolution. The definition must not be manipulated to produce a self-evident fact or something that is true by definition.
- c) If the first Affirmative speaker fails to define the resolution he or she must accept any reasonable definitions proposed by the first Negative speaker. If the first and second speakers fail to define the terms, the right to define falls to the remaining speakers in turn.
- d) If the first Negative speaker believes that the first Affirmative speaker's definitions are unreasonable or unfair he or she may challenge them and redefine the terms. Judges shall then accept the definitions best supported by evidence and argumentation.
- e) If there is no other clash between Affirmative and Negative cases, the debate must be decided solely on the issue of the interpretation of terms.
- f) In SEDA impromptu debates, the affirmative teams share definitions with the negative teams 10 minutes prior to the start of the debate. If the definitions are unfair, the negative is to contest them at this time. Both teams are to agree on the terms prior to the start of the debate.

2) Evidence

- a) Assertions of fact by debaters must be accurate and should be supported by proof. Debaters must be prepared to cite specific authority.
- b) Debaters may introduce any visual aids and tangible evidence they desire; such evidence then becomes available for use by their opponents.
- c) Except for reasonable role-playing purposes, all assertions of fact by debaters must be accurate and debaters must be prepared to cite specific authority (publication, page, author, date, etc.). The actual publication or at least a copy of that page must be available. It is the opponents' prerogative to examine evidence, if they so desire.
- d) Interviews may be introduced as evidence if the debater has with him or her a transcript signed by the interviewee.
- e) Letters from experts may be used as evidence and must be available to the opposing team.
- f) Evidence must not be fabricated, misquoted, distorted, or quoted out of context.
- g) If a judge suspects that evidence is inaccurate he or she may request full documentation at the end of the debate, before rendering a decision. Judges should penalize debaters severely for using inaccurate evidence.
- h) If a judge is *certain* that a debater has *deliberately* fabricated or falsified evidence he or she should report this to the tournament host immediately. A debater guilty of fabrication or falsification of evidence becomes ineligible to win any prize or distinction at the tournament.
- i) In SEDA impromptu debates, debaters are not allowed to refer to any published or printed materials to assist them with preparation, with the exception of a print dictionary and an almanac. (Note: if SEDA provides background material prior to the tournament, it can not be brought into the impromptu prep period)

3) Team obligations and rights**a) Right to speak**

The moderator (or in Parliamentary style, the Speaker) grants the right to speak by introducing a debater. Once gaining the floor, a debater is obliged to surrender it only when ordered to do so by the moderator or timekeeper.

b) Delivery

- i) Debaters shall stand to deliver all speeches and while asking and answering questions in cross-examination debate. In discussion style, all debaters remain seated during the discussion period.
- ii) Debaters must not read their speeches, though they may make reasonable reference to notes and may read quotations. Judges should penalize debaters for excessive reading, and for memorization which results in stilted or unnatural delivery.

c) Forms of address

- i) Debaters need not engage in formal or elaborate forms of address except in Parliamentary style.
- ii) Debaters must refer to one another in the third person (for example, my worthy opponent).

d) Refutation

- i) In these rules "refutation" means attacking the opposing arguments and evidence and defending one's own arguments and evidence.
- ii) Refutation is not restricted to the official rebuttal period. The Affirmative must not wait until the official rebuttal to respond to important opposition points in the debate.

- iii) The functions of refutation and defence shall be divided among the members of each team. All debaters must attack the opponent's case while developing their own. Judges will score debaters on how well they discharge their respective responsibilities.
- iv) No new constructive arguments or evidence may be introduced during an official rebuttal except that the Affirmative may respond to new arguments or evidence introduced during the second Negative constructive speech.
- v) Both teams are expected to present constructive arguments as well as deconstruct or clash with their opposition's arguments. Clash can be direct, global or case line in nature. Judges should severely penalize debaters in the deconstruction category who rely heavily upon reading prepared negative speeches rather than presenting relevant clash.
- vi) While a team may challenge their opposition's plan or counter-plan on the basis of feasibility, it is not essential the presenter show that the plan is legal or constitutional.

e) Rule violations

Following the rebuttals, both teams are given the opportunity to register rule violations by their opponents, except in Parliamentary style debate. Each team is allowed to speak once, debate is not allowed, and each alleged violation must refer to a specific rule. Judges must determine whether the alleged infraction is legitimate, how serious it is, and what penalty (if any) is appropriate.

4) Conduct

- a) Debaters should always conduct themselves with dignity and be courteous towards everyone present. They should not make personal comments about their opponents. Judges should penalize debaters guilty of any attempt to personally belittle another debater. The moderator should try to protect debaters from abuse.
- b) Debaters must not disturb a speaker with interruptions or distractions such as loud whispering, shuffling papers, etc.
- c) Debaters must use appropriate language.
- d) Debaters should not try to unduly influence judges.
- e) Debaters may speak on any relevant topic but should not be obscene, blasphemous, or defamatory.
- f) Debaters may not communicate with or prompt colleagues in any way while one of them is speaking, nor shall a speaker consult them for assistance, but they may consult with one another quietly while an opposing speaker delivers his or her speech.
- g) At a tournament, debaters and coaches must not attend debates involving potential opponents to gain a competitive advantage. Coaches may observe their own teams debate.
- h) A team must not seek information regarding the case of potential opponents.
- i) No ostensible signs of school affiliations are allowed in a debate room.
- j) Coaches are not allowed to assist debaters with any preparation for the impromptu round.

Picking a Winner & Evaluating the Speaker

The winning team presented the best case: arguments, logic and evidence; used a variety of clash (direct, global, case line) to deconstruct; identified underlying assumptions; attacked inconsistencies; was persuasive; and clarified what the debate was about.

On the ballot, each speaker is graded from 1 to 5 in five categories:

- 1) **Arguments & Evidence:** 5-understands all aspects of the issue and excellent research and clear logic shown; 4-understands both sides of issues well and presents effective evidence, with considerable logic shown; 3-understands one side of the issue well and uses some evidence to substantiate the case; 2-some logic and research evident; 0/1-case is incoherent or research is absent, said nothing or was offensive
- 2) **Case development and structure:** 5-ideas are cleverly organized, effectively sequentialized and designed to develop a central thesis of the debate. The case is well coordinated with the partner's speeches and there is a naturally persuasive flow to the case as a whole; 4-Ideas are well organized, deliberately sequenced and related to a main point. The contentions of the debater are consistent with the partner; 3-Ideas are loosely organized and relate to the resolution; 2-ideas are stated but not related and may be contradictory a times; 0/1-ideas are confused, scattered or non-existent, said nothing or was offensive
- 3) **Deconstruction:** 5-demonstrates seamless integration of appropriate methods; 4-clashes with a variety of methods but does not summarize; 3-some variety of clash and attempts summary; 2-clashes directly with some critical points; 0/1-no relevant clash or understanding of opponents; said nothing or was offensive (a good debater articulates a clear understanding of opponents' cases, distinguishes between relevant and irrelevant points, summarizes and synthesizes opponents' cases, uses both direct and global clash along with case line to refute all critical points, summarizes key themes and points out logical weaknesses.)
- 4) **Delivery:** 5-persuasive, memorable, effective use of voice and body; 4-good pace, tone eye contact, does not rely solely on notes, fairly persuasive; 3-Delivery flaws in pace, tone and diction which reduce persuasiveness, reads notes; 2-uncomfortable, lacks confidence, reads entire speech; 0/1-delivery is offensive or non-existent
- 5) **Style:** See "Evaluating the Speaker" for each debate style for specifics.

Discussion style debate is used in four categories: French Junior, Beginner, Intermediate and Junior. These are the speaking times:

	Fr. Jr./ Beginner / Intermediate	Junior
1st Affirmative Constructive	4 min.	5 min.
1st Negative Constructive	4 min.	5 min.
2nd Affirmative Constructive	4 min.	5 min.
2nd Negative Constructive	4 min.	5 min.
Discussion Period	6 min.	10 min.
Break	5 min.	5 min.
1st Negative Rebuttal	3 min.	3 min.
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	3 min.	3 min.

- During the discussion period debaters raise their hand, and upon being recognized by the chair, proceed to ask, and respond to questions from their opponents.
- No new constructive arguments may be introduced, although it is permissible to introduce new evidence.
- Each contribution should not exceed one minute.
- Questions should alternate from side to side.
- An equal contribution must be made by all debaters. Judges should penalize lack of participation by a debater.

Evaluating the Speaker: give one point for each demonstrated: concise and well thought out questions and answers; obeys rules of discussion period (no new contentions, etc.); avoids making speeches; participates effectively (asks and answers questions equally with partner); courteous and appropriate

Cross-Examination & National Styles

Cross-Examination Style

1st Affirmative Constructive	5 min.
1st Affirmative cross-examined by 1st Negative	3 min.
1st Negative Constructive	5 min.
1st Negative cross-examined by 2nd Affirmative	3 min.
2nd Affirmative Constructive	5 min.
2nd Affirmative cross-examined by 2nd Negative	3 min.
2nd Negative Constructive	5 min.
2nd Negative cross-examined by 1st Affirmative	3 min.

5 minute break

1st Negative Rebuttal 4 min / 1st Affirmative Rebuttal 4 min.

- The examiner controls the cross-examination. The respondent should be permitted reasonable — but not unnecessary — time to answer questions.
- The respondent must answer all relevant questions and must not ask questions except to request clarification.
- A debater shall not seek assistance from his or her partner while asking or answering questions.
- Judges should penalize speech-making, irrelevance, flippancy, discourtesy or any attempt to personally discredit an opponent. Judges should also penalize lack of co-operation by a respondent and browbeating and rebutting by an examiner. (Examiners should only ask questions.)
- New contentions and evidence may be introduced during cross-examination.

The examiner should ask fair, relevant questions. Questions need not directly relate to the speech just delivered but should relate ultimately to the topic at hand.

- If an irrelevant answer is given to a relevant question the moderator, on request or on his or her own initiative, should order the respondent to answer the question properly.

Evaluating the Speaker: give one point for each demonstrated: gives concise, well worded questions and answers; obeys the rules of cross-examination; anticipates the significance of questions and builds lines of questions; the cross-ex period is related to the entire debate; is courteous and appropriate as both the examiner and witness

National Style

High School Elementary

First Proposition Speaker	8 minutes	.....	6 minutes
First Opposition Speaker	8 minutes	.....	6 minutes
Second Proposition Speaker	8 minutes	.....	6 minutes
Second Opposition Speaker	8 minutes	.....	6 minutes
Summary/Rebuttal speeches			
First Opposition Speaker	4 minutes	.....	3 minutes
First Proposition Speaker	4 minutes	.....	3 minutes

Please see SEDA's Constitution/Policy Manual or Step-by-Step Guide for the complete rules.

- No squirreling is permitted.
- Points of Information (POIs), are a question or statement that debaters interject during an opponent's speech, to gain a tactical advantage. Points of information should be short and to the point.
- Each debater should accept about two POI's and should offer at least two POI's to each opponent.
- POIs are only allowed during the constructive speeches, but not during the first and last minutes of these speeches (called "protected time").
- To offer a POI, a debater may stand silently, possibly extending an arm. A debater may also simply say "on a point of information", or "on that point". The speaker has control over whether to accept the point. One may not continue with their point of information unless the floor is yielded by the speaker. *The speaker may verbally reject the point or politely wave down the speaker; accept the point or defer the point.*
- Points of order, points of personal privilege and heckling are all prohibited.

Evaluating the Speaker: give one point for each demonstrated: questions and answers are concise and well-thought out; obeys the rules of National style (protected time, etc.); anticipates and understands the significance of questions; actively engaged throughout the debate (asks and accepts at least 1-2 questions); all questions and answers are related to important issues in the debate

Speaking times are:	Prime Minister's Introduction	5 min.
	First Opposition Speech	8 min.
	Second Government Speech	8 min.
	Leader of the Opposition's Speech	8 min.
	<i>The last three minutes of this speech are a rebuttal.</i>	
	Prime Minister's Rebuttal	3 min.

- a) The moderator of a Parliamentary debate is styled the Speaker. All debaters must address themselves to "Mr. Speaker" or "Madame Speaker" at the outset of their speeches and throughout the debate. The Affirmative is called the Government and the Negative is the Opposition. Participants in the debate and members of the audience are referred to collectively as the House, while the resolution is termed the Bill. The House represents the Canadian House of Commons, unless otherwise specified.
- b) Debaters must always refer to one another in the third person (for example, the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Recreation and Honourable Member).
- c) Only one debater at a time may hold the floor of the House. As soon as another member rises to address himself to the Speaker, an interrupted debater shall surrender the floor by sitting down. When the Speaker rises to his or her feet, all debaters must immediately cease speaking and resume their seats.
- d) Heckling is not only permitted, it is encouraged, as long as it is pertinent, brief and infrequent. Wit is welcome but should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of a debater. Judges should severely penalize debaters who lower the level of debate through excessive or irrelevant heckling.
- e) A debater may question an opponent during the latter's speech by rising to his or her feet and once recognized by the Speaker inquiring, "Mr. Speaker, will the honourable member entertain a question?" If the honourable member agrees to consider the question, the question may be posed; otherwise, the questioner must resume his or her seat. Neither the time taken to ask such a question nor the period required to answer it shall be included in the speaking time of the interrupted speaker. While occasional formal questions are welcome, such questions should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of opponents. Judges shall severely penalize debaters who lower the level of debate through excessive or thoughtless formal questions.
- f) There is no protected time during any speaker's speeches. Heckling, questions, points of Personal Privilege and Order are allowed at all times, including during official rebuttals.
- g) Debaters must not defer answering questions to the end of their speeches.
- h) Every debater may insist on the observance of the rules of Parliamentary debate and may rise on a Point of Order immediately after he or she believes a rule has been violated. A Point of Order may involve a debater other than the one holding the floor.
- i) To raise a Point of Order, a debater stands and once recognized by the Speaker says, "Mr. Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order." The Speaker then says to the complainant, "Please explain your point." After the complainant explains his or her objection, the Speaker rules whether the point was "well taken" (valid) or "not well taken". If the Point of Order is well taken, the offender must apologize. The Speaker then calls upon the interrupted debater to continue his or her speech.
- j) If a point is well taken and involves a rule infraction by the interrupted debater, the time used during the interruption is included in his or her speaking time. Otherwise, the interrupted debater is allowed additional time to compensate him or her for the interruption.
- k) In Parliamentary debates, the timekeeper should make every effort to stop the clock when a speaker stands to pose a question and to start the clock when they are reasonably sure the speaker has completed their response. If the timekeeper is unable to stop the clock, they should add approximately 30 extra seconds for each question posed, to a maximum of an extra minute, to the end of a speaker's time.
- l) The Speaker may call any member to order on his or her own initiative even though no other debater has objected to a member's conduct.
- m) A debater may rise on a Point of Personal Privilege if he or she has been misquoted or misrepresented, slandered or otherwise insulted. No member may raise such a point on behalf of another member. The same procedures and time adjustments apply as those governing Points of Order. If a Point of Personal Privilege is well taken and involves a distortion of the complainant's remarks, the Speaker may allow the complainant to clarify his or her position (though not to introduce any new material in doing so). The offending party should apologize.

Evaluating the Speaker: give one point for each demonstrated: knows when to interrupt with questions, points of order & privilege; is actively engaged throughout the entire debate; uses parliamentary tools to persuade (language, address, rules, etc.); uses heckles appropriately and effectively (brief, witty and to the point); is respectful of their partner, their opponents, the Speaker, and the House