

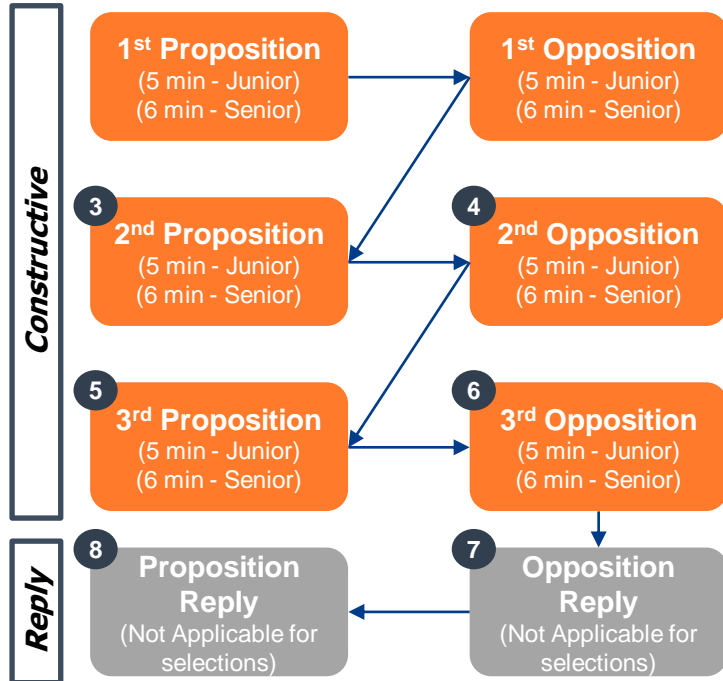


WSDC Speaker Roles

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Every WSDC debate is designed to maximise engagement and dynamic thinking



Points of Information (PoIs) can be offered by the other team during these speeches. Points of information are offered between the first minute and the last minute

Each motion starts with This House...

This House Would
Ban alcohol

This usually refers to a government in general. No specific government, but a general government with some good intent.

Each motion starts with This House...

This House Believes That
Parents should not allow
their children to access
social media

In this type of debate,
This House can also
be read as "As a
society, we"; meaning
that as a society, we
believe that parents
should not allow their
children access to
social media.

The first Proposition speaker should define the topic, set up a policy, and provide two arguments (1/2)

- **Definition:** A definition clarifies key words in the topic in the context of the debate.
 - E.g., in "This House would ban alcohol", the definition of ban alcohol is that producing, selling, and buying alcohol for recreation will now be illegal. The definition of alcohol is NOT that it is a chemical compound produced in the lab. Therefore, definitions are context based and not dictionary definitions.
 - Additionally, you also have to define the topic in the spirit of the motion. This topic is not about banning alcohol in medicines, it is about the addiction to alcohol that happens because of more general and wide consumption, like in bars and pubs, and at home for recreation
 - To arrive at a fair definition in the spirit of the motion, think about why the debate is even occurring
- **Policy:** Most debates in selections will require policies, or how an action is done.
 - E.g., to ban alcohol, the policy would involve giving a window of time for bars to shut down, placing a fine on people that continue to sell alcohol after that time, and setting up rehabilitation centers for addicts.

The first Proposition speaker should define the topic, set up a policy, and provide two arguments (2/2)

- **Two arguments:** The first Proposition speaker provides two constructive arguments.
 - A constructive argument is a well-explained reason why the topic is true. E.g., if you are arguing in favor of banning alcohol, a constructive argument might be that “Banning alcohol improves public health.”
 - Such an argument has three parts. It has a claim, which is a single sentence that acts as a title for the whole argument (such as the above claim on banning alcohol). It has an explanation, which answers the question “why is the claim true?” and usually involves many reasons. It has an impact, which answers the question “why does the claim matter?”.
 - For example, for the claim that “Banning alcohol improves public health,” you may want three justifications under the “explanation” and then two results under the “impact.” Everything that you say in an argument needs to be proven true – you cannot merely state something without proving it logically.
- A good first Proposition speech to watch is the first Proposition speech in [this debate](#):
The topic is: “This house would ban free-to-play games”

The first Opposition speaker should set up a stance, rebut the Proposition's arguments, and provide two arguments of their own (1/2)

- **Stance:** The Opposition in a debate also has a stance, which is a statement of what they support.
 - This might be simply the current situation ("status quo"), in which case the Opposition has to describe what that is.
 - This might also be a set of alternative proposals. For example, on the topic "This House would ban alcohol," the Opposition might advocate alcohol remaining legal, but with many alternative policies in place – for example, preventing minors from consuming it and offering free rehabilitation for people who are alcoholic/addicted.
- **Rebut the Proposition's arguments:** The first Opposition speaker needs to rebut the two arguments provided by the first Proposition speaker.
 - Rebuttal is when a speaker responds to the arguments from a speaker on another team
 - In the first Opposition speech, you should structure your rebuttal by addressing each of the two arguments from the first Proposition speaker chronologically.

The first Opposition speaker should set up a stance, rebut the Proposition's arguments, and provide two arguments of their own (2/2)

- Two arguments: The first Opposition speaker also has to provide two constructive arguments.
 - Each of the constructive arguments needs to have a claim, an explanation (often with three justifications for the claim), and an impact (result).
 - The two most important constructive arguments from the Opposition team need to be in this speech.
 - The first Opposition speaker needs to spend more time on the constructive arguments than on the rebuttal. However, the rebuttal must come first.
- A good first Opposition speech to watch is the first Opposition speech in [this debate](#): The topic is "This house would allow ex-convicts to apply to join the police force"

Second speakers should rebut the other team's arguments, defend their arguments, and provide a new argument

- **Rebut the other team's material:** The other team's speaker presented one to two constructive arguments. Second speakers must rebut these arguments. Additionally, they must rebut the other team's rebuttal of their material
- Provide a new argument: The second Proposition speaker provides one constructive Argument.
 - This is compulsory in the WSDC format.
 - The second Proposition speaker needs to provide one detailed constructive argument
- A good second Proposition speech to watch is the second Proposition speech in [this debate](#): The topic is "This House believes that charities and humanitarian aid organizations should not use graphic images of suffering in their advertising campaigns."
- A good second Opposition speech to watch is the second Opposition speech in [this debate](#): The topic is "This House supports academic tracking in primary and secondary education."

Third speakers' responsibility is to exclusively deliver rebuttal

- Third speakers **should not have any new arguments in the debate**. They should organise the material from previous speeches into themes, recount what has occurred in the debate on the issue, and **then provide new rebuttal to recent material**
- In a debate about alcohol, whether banning alcohol improves public health problems or worsens public health concerns by driving people into an unsafe and unhealthy black market can become a theme called "What is the impact of banning alcohol on public health"?
- Third speakers typically have three themes in their speeches. Two themes are acceptable in a five minute speech.
- A good third Proposition speech to watch is the third Proposition speech in [this debate](#): The topic is "This House would require professional sports teams to be owned by their local communities, rather than by individuals or corporations."
- A good third Opposition speech to watch is the third Opposition speech in [this debate](#): The topic is "TH would impose additional taxes on employers who use automation to replace human workers."

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