WSDC Speaker Roles

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Every WSDC debate is designed to maximise engagement and dynamic thinking
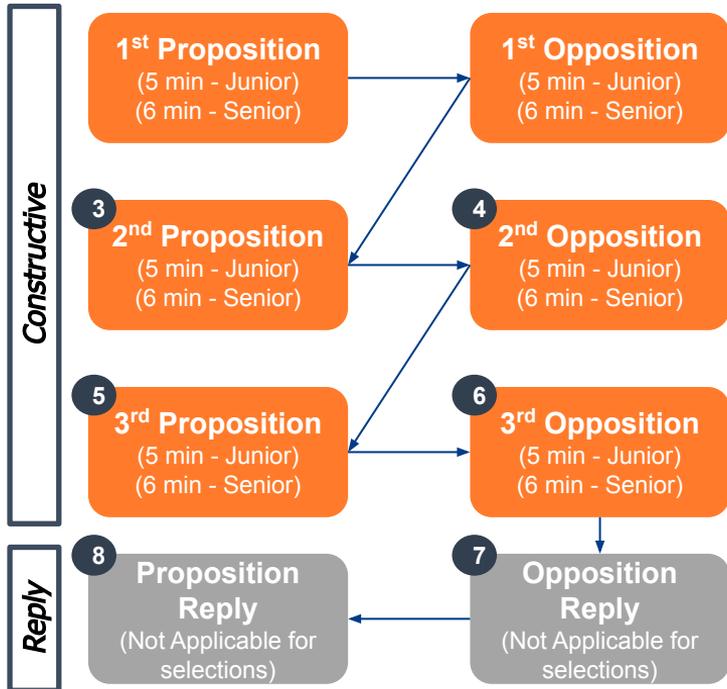
Constructive

1st Proposition
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

1st Opposition
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

3 **2nd Proposition**
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

4 **2nd Opposition**
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

5 **3rd Proposition**
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

6 **3rd Opposition**
(5 min - Junior)
(6 min - Senior)

Reply

8 **Proposition Reply**
(Not Applicable for selections)

7 **Opposition Reply**
(Not Applicable for selections)

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

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This House Would
Ban alcohol

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

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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.

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Each speaker in a WSDC debate has a unique role to play
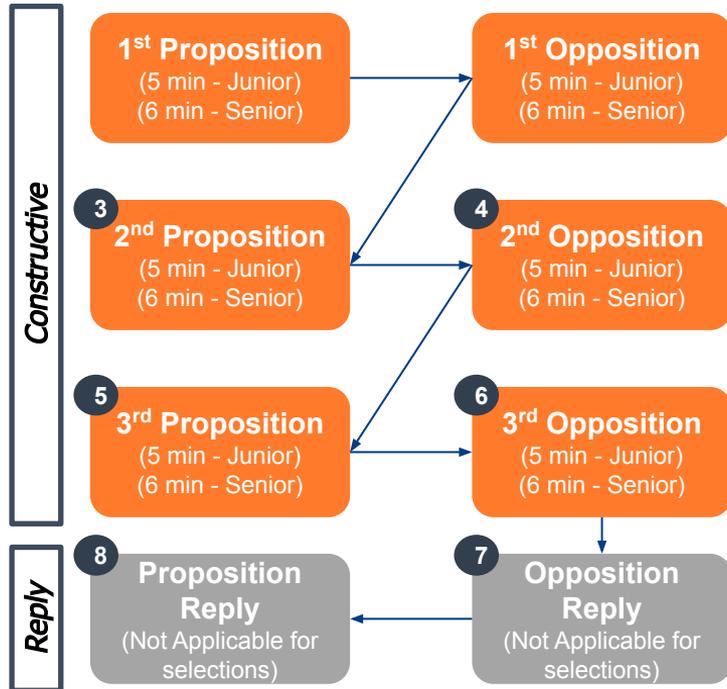
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The first Proposition speaker should define the topic, set up a policy, and provide two arguments (1/2)

- **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.

- **Two arguments**: The first Proposition speaker provides two constructive arguments.
  - A constructive argument is a well-explained reason why the motion should pass. 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 **title**, which is a single sentence/phrase that acts as a header for the whole argument, which has to answer the question "Why should the motion pass?" or "Why should the motion fail?" An example is Why should the motion "THW ban alcohol" pass? "Banning Alcohol Improves Public Health"
    - It has an **explanation**, which proves the title/header. Here, you would need to prove why banning alcohol improves public health, which would require explaining why people will have worse health when alcohol can be legally consumed, and why their health improves is alcohol is banned. You could also prove this in multiple ways.
    - It has an **impact**, to explain why public health improving should matter enough in the debate to ban alcohol

- 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"

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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, or 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. In the status quo, alcohol remains legal, but with many safeguards – for example, preventing minors from consuming it, offering rehabilitation for people who are alcoholic/addicted, limiting the extent of alcohol in a drink to 40%, etc.
  - Opposition can also have a counterproposal/policy, for instance, setting up a system where people have to own licenses that track their alcohol purchases - however, here, they would need an explanation of it similar to a policy, and the debate then becomes between the two policies

- **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.

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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 title, an explanation proving the title with multiple reasons, and an impact
    - 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"

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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. This should be done in structured areas of response that group similar material and responses together
- **Provide new arguments:** The second Proposition speaker provides 1-2 constructive arguments. Second opposition speakers often provide one.
  - While providing constructive arguments is not compulsory in WSDC, ISDS selections treats it as compulsory to evaluate the breadth of thinking on a topic that students show.

- 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."

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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**
- In the 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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Website:
www.indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com

Instagram/Twitter:
@TeamIndiaWSDC

Facebook:
ISDS: Indian Schools Debating Society

Email:
isds@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com
ragini@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com