



ISDS ICYD Debater Briefing

ICYD Debater Briefing covers 2 areas



Debate Format

- Format
- Motions & How to interpret them
- Speaker Roles
- Preparation Time

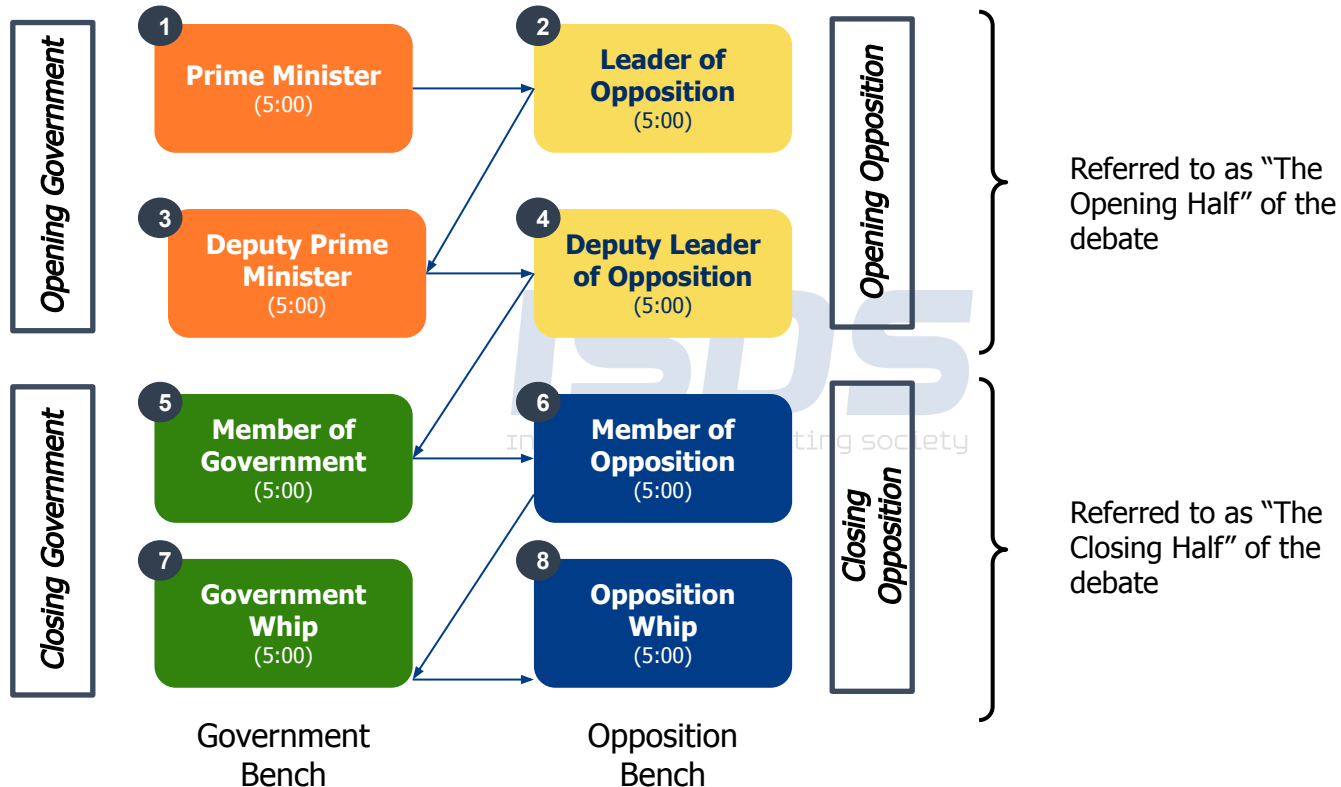


Judging & Decision Making

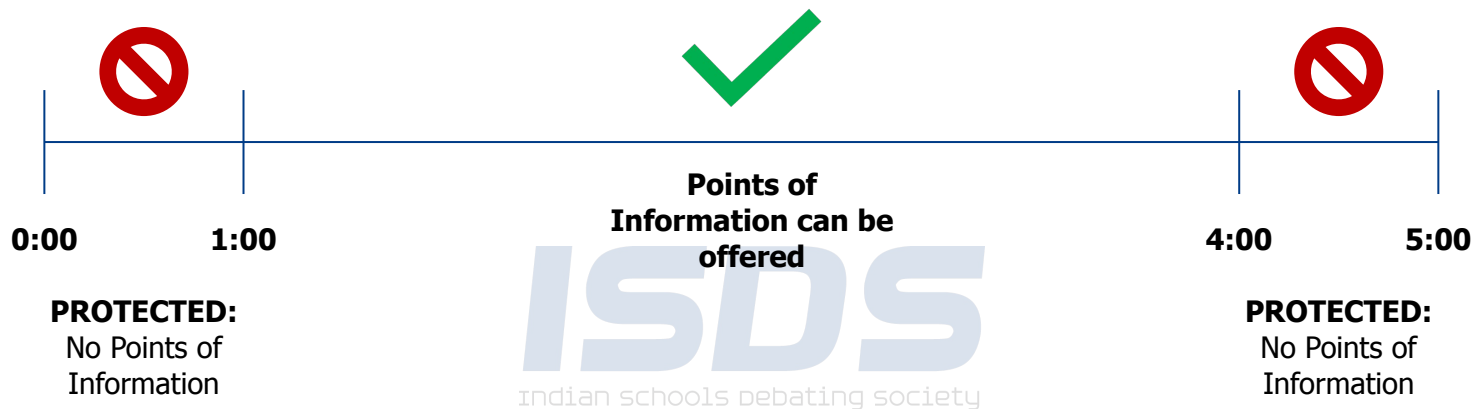
- Selection Criteria
- What judges look for

Format

For our selections, we will have debates in the British Parliamentary format with 5:00 minute speeches



During every constructive speech, a speaking member from the opposing bench can raise a Point of Information (PoI) during designated times



A PoI is a short interjection from a member of the other team to the person of your team who is currently speaking

Motions

Motions (Topics)

- Topics for the selections can vary from anything related to current events to policies that are existing and affecting people from a long while.
- For our 4 round of selections, motions for two rounds will be released beforehand, and motions for the other 2 rounds will be released impromptu.

Each motion starts with the words This House...

This House is referring to governments of countries across the world. Not a specific government, but governments in general that are have the capacity to carry out the motion and have some good intentions

THIS HOUSE WOULD
ban alcohol

ISDS
indian schools debating society

Each motion starts with the words This House...

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.

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT
parents should not let their
children use social media

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Speaker Roles

The Prime Minister (PM) 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 Prime Minister (PM) should define the topic, set up a policy, and provide two arguments (1/2)

- **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 Prime Minister speech to watch is the first Proposition speech in the debate [This House Supports Filial responsibility laws](#)

Suggested Speech organization for Prime Minister speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Set-up	0:20–1:10
Roadmap	1:10–1:20
First constructive argument	1:20–3:00
POI	3:00–3:20
Second constructive argument	3:20–5:00

The Leader of Opposition (LO) speaker should set up a stance, rebut the PM'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 LO speech, you should structure your rebuttal by addressing each of the two arguments from the PM chronologically.

The Leader of Opposition (LO) speaker should set up a stance, rebut the PM'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 LO speech to watch is [this one](#) from the European Debating Championship 2017

Suggested Speech organization for Leader of Opposition speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:10
Set-up	0:10–0:50
Rebuttal	0:50–1:50
POI	1:50–2:10
First constructive argument	2:10–3:15
Second constructive argument	3:15–5:00

Deputy Prime Minister(DPM) and Deputy Leader of Opposition(DLO) should rebut the other team, defend their side, 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 speaker of either side provides one constructive argument.
 - This is an independent argument, introducing new concepts that may not have been previously brought up
 - Second speakers need to provide one detailed constructive argument
- **Establish why your arguments are important:** Since Opening Teams also compete with their Closing teams down the bench, it's important for second speakers to analyze the overall contribution that their team has made to the debate and explain why it is the most important/relevant to the debate in comparison to what closing can potentially bring up
- You can watch [this speech](#) from WUDC 2016 as a reference point for what an excellent second speech sounds like

Suggested Speech organization for Deputy Prime Minister speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal	0:20–2:30
Conclusion to rebuttal	2:30–2:45
POI	2:45–3:05
Constructive argument	3:05–4:25
Weighing your team's contribution	4:25-5:00

Suggested Speech organization for Deputy Leader of Opposition speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal	0:20–3:10
Conclusion to rebuttal	3:10–3:30
POI	3:30–3:50
Constructive argument	3:50–5:00
Weighing your team's contribution	4:25-5:00

Member of Government (MG) and Member of Opposition(MO) should refute any outstanding material and extend the debate with a new argument

- **Rebut the other team’s material:** Rebut the entirety of the contents of the Opening side on the other bench
- **Extend the debate with new arguments:** The MG and MO must provide a new set of arguments and analysis in support of their side.
 - A novel argument made from either MG or MO is also referred to as an “Extension” or “Extension Argument”. The aim of your extension is to persuade the judge to support your side distinctly from how the Opening team attempts to persuade them
 - These must be independent arguments, introducing new concepts that may not have been previously brought up, and must be distinct from what Opening teams have already argued. If the arguments appear to be similar, the distinction between the arguments must be explained during the course of the speech
 - This doesn’t mean that you can’t use the framework set up by openings, or that if they’ve mentioned something in passing, you are prohibited from extending on it and deepening the analysis. What it does mean is that you have to be careful to show why your ideas are not derivatives of theirs and also show why those ideas are the most important things in the debate.
- A Member of Gov speech to look out for is [this one](#), from WUDC 2016
- An excellent MO speech can be found [here](#), from Dutch WUDC 2017

Suggested Speech organization for Member of Government speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal	1:10–1:20
First constructive argument	1:20–3:00
POI	3:00–3:20
Second constructive argument	3:20–5:00

Suggested Speech organization for Member of Opposition speeches

What?	5-minute speech
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal	1:10–1:20
First constructive argument	1:20–2:50
POI	2:50–3:10
Second constructive argument	3:10–5:00

Whip speakers' responsibility for either side is to exclusively deliver rebuttal

- Whip 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**
- Whip speakers typically have three themes in their speeches. Two themes are acceptable in a five minute speech. 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"?**
- Whip speakers are not only responsible for responding to all material from either team on the opposing bench, but also establishing how your team's extensions are more persuasive reasons to support the motion. Often this involves weighing your arguments against your the Opening team's arguments and explaining why they are more important or relevant.
- You can check out [this whip speech](#) from the Manila World Championship 2012 or [this one](#) from Berlin WUDC 2013 for reference

Suggested Speech organization for Government Whip

Speech Element	Timestamp
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal (To CO)	0:20–2:00
POI	2:00–2:20
Rebuttal (To OO)	2:20–4:00
Weighing your team's contribution over OG	4:00-5:00



Suggested Speech organization for Opposition Whip

Speech Element	Timestamp
Introduction	0:00–0:20
Rebuttal (To CG)	0:20–2:00
POI	2:00–2:20
Rebuttal (To OG)	2:20–4:00
Weighing your team's contribution over OO	4:00-5:00

Preparation Time

In the British Parliamentary Debating Format, the duration of Prep Time is 30 minutes, here are some questions worth asking yourself in prep

1. **Why are we having this debate?** Try to understand why this motion has been set, and what the problem might be that it's trying to explore or resolve.
2. **Who is affected by this?** Identifying the key actors in the debate is important in allowing you to target your arguments. "Who do we care about?" is a good supplementary question here.
3. **If it's a policy debate, why this policy?** There are often numerous different ways to try to solve a controversial issue, and a motion only really gives you one of them. If you're in Government, you need to think about what unique benefits this policy might bring. If you're in Opposition, try to think about alternatives that might be less damaging, or unique harms that this policy might bring that others wouldn't.
4. **How does this debate work?** If it's a policy debate, then you need to think about how it might actually take place. If it's a "believes" debate (or an analysis motion) then it's a good idea to consider the definitions of the words in the motion and make sure that there's no ambiguity in your understanding.
5. **If you're in the closing half, what might your opening already have covered?** It's important to identify the most accessible arguments and then try to think deeper and broader in order to come up with something that's unlikely to have been taken in top half.

Accessing the internet during the course of prep time is not allowed

We recommend you spend your 30 minutes in this way

- 4 min – silent brainstorm
- 4 min – sharing ideas without discussion
- 8 mins – definitions, models, team lines, argument selection
- 8 mins – going through steps of analysis for each argument
- 4 mins – Speech writing, thinking of examples, rebuttal and POIs
- 2 min – regroup, discuss rebuttal and examples



Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

Selection will not be based on number of rounds won or lost

Candidate's Individual Performance

Speaker improvement over rounds, application of feedback and overall performance is analysed.

Adjudicator Feedback

Adjudicator feedback on candidate performance allows us to gauge the strengths of the candidate

Selection

Selection Criteria

Student performance will be recorded by adjudicators in the form of a speaker score

Along with giving a verdict and feedback, a judge also marks all speakers in the round with a speaker score.
This score will not be disclosed to the team.

A speaker score is a score out of 100 awarded to the speaker based on the following criteria:

- **Style:** 40% (40 points)
- **Content:** 40% (40 points)
- **Strategy:** 20% (20 points)

Selection Criteria

Content (40%)

- Deals with **WHAT** is being presented.
- Quality of arguments, examples, rebuttal, POIs and responses to POIs.
- If an argument or rebuttal is underexplained, this indicates a content issue

Style (40%)

- Deals with **HOW** the content is presented.
- Accents, quality of voice, looks of speakers are *not* part of style
- Body language, pace of speech, tonal variations, choice of language, ability to describe situations through powerful illustration, humor, etc. are part of style

Strategy (20%)

- Deals with **WHY** content is said
- Relevance of the motion, time allocation, prioritising material in the speech, consistency between arguments and speeches, are all part of strategy
- A speech with a lot of time allocated to explaining thoroughly less important arguments is unstrategic

What judges look for - Content

In arguments:

- Do speakers have a diverse range of arguments about different stakeholders? E.g.: principles, different types of practical arguments?
- Do speakers have good analysis?
 - **Rigorous Logic:** Every argument is explained step by step and taken to its logical conclusion. If X happens, this leads to Y, which leads to Z harm
 - **Goes beyond assertions:** Each step in a logical chain has a reason. If X happens, it leads to Y because of A reasons. That leads to Z which harmful for B reasons.
- Have speakers explained why an argument is important and relevant to the debate?

In rebuttal:

- Are speakers' responses to arguments well explained, and do they cover the important material from the other side? Saying something is wrong is different to proving that it is wrong using logical steps.
- Do speakers take care not to misrepresent the other side?

Example usage is an important part of content. Across arguments and rebuttal, judges will look for whether speakers use good and well explained examples from the real world that are diverse in context.

What judges look for - Style

Speakers should be easy to follow

- Well paced - speakers should not speak too fast
- Clear
 - Speakers should enunciate and avoid swallowing sentence ends, mumbling, etc. that would reduce the ability of a judge to understand them
 - Speakers should pause as necessary, and use clear signposting to move through different parts of their speeches to increase intelligibility. E.g.: Moving onto my first argument, on XXXX.

Speakers should be engaging to listen to

- Speakers should vary up their tone (between softer and louder), and induce emotions in their speech as the content asks for it, e.g.: hopeful, sarcastic, sad, etc.
- Speakers should use convincing/powerful illustration to explain points. For example, note the difference between saying 'Poorer parents find it difficult to help their children with their studies', and saying 'When you work three jobs to put food on the table, you have very little time to explain advanced calculus to your child.'

Fundamentally, bad style is bad content. Shouting too loudly, or speaking too quickly to be understood make it harder to understand and be engaged by a speaker. At the same time speakers only using rhetoric and quotes to the exclusion of content is also bad.

What judges look for - Strategy

Speakers should prioritise material consciously

- Both while making arguments, and while rebutting arguments, speakers should prioritise delivering material that is most important and hard hitting in the debate and gets to the heart of the debate, and material that works well with the other material their team is running to ensure consistency
- Each speaker should also be able to identify where they are winning the debate and explain why that is critical to the round, and similarly, where they are losing the debate and close the gaps
- Speakers should also be able to highlight material dropped by the other side and explain its importance

Speakers should manage time well

- Speakers' content should be such that they neither underuse their time, nor overshoot the provided time
- Repetition to make time is poor both strategically, and is bad content

Speakers should fulfill their roles

- Speakers playing their respective roles on the team makes the overall team more strategically sound, and individual speeches clearer and more strategic in the round. First speakers forgetting the model and making second speakers do it reduces strategy points for the first speaker, and the amount of time second speakers can use rebutting the other team, and hence strategy points for the second speaker as well, and so on

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