



World Schools Debating Championship

Zagreb, Croatia

July 17. - 27.2018.

# WSDC 2018 CAP Presents: How to Judge World Schools Debate



# Special thanks to:

- The Mexican Debate Association (AMD)
- The Heart of Europe Tournament
- The WSDC 2017 CAP
- And all others who have contributed materials that helped make this training session possible!

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What makes up a perfect judge?





# Characteristics of a Good Judge

- Impartial - Doesn't have pre-formed views on the topic of the debate
- Willing to be persuaded - Open-minded and concerned
- Good listener
- Basic understanding, not a specialist
- Constructive

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# The World Schools Debate Format





# World Schools Debate Format

- 2 teams - Proposition and Opposition
- Each team has 3 to 5 speakers, only 3 speakers per round
- 3 substantive speeches (8 minutes) along with one reply speech
- Only the 1st or 2nd speaker can give the reply speech
- The opposing team may ask questions during speeches - known as Points of Information - hereafter referred to as POIs .



# Points of Information [POIs]

- Tactical interruptions and questions
- Should not be asked more than every 15 seconds
- Speakers should almost always take at least 2
- These may be given after the first minute and before the last minute.
- None may be offered during the reply speech.



# P.O.I. Adjustment Column

- Can grant or take away up to 2 further points based off POIs contributed
- To be used if the POIs offered differ significantly from the speech
- Contribution refers to both quantity offered AND quality offered
- If little/no difference, leave the column blank





# Roles of the Teams

## Proposition

- Burden of proof in advancing the motion
- Has to define the motion, outline what the debate will be about. Must be clear and fair to both sides
- Can present a solution (model) to the issue at hand
- Present substantive arguments in favour of their case

## Opposition

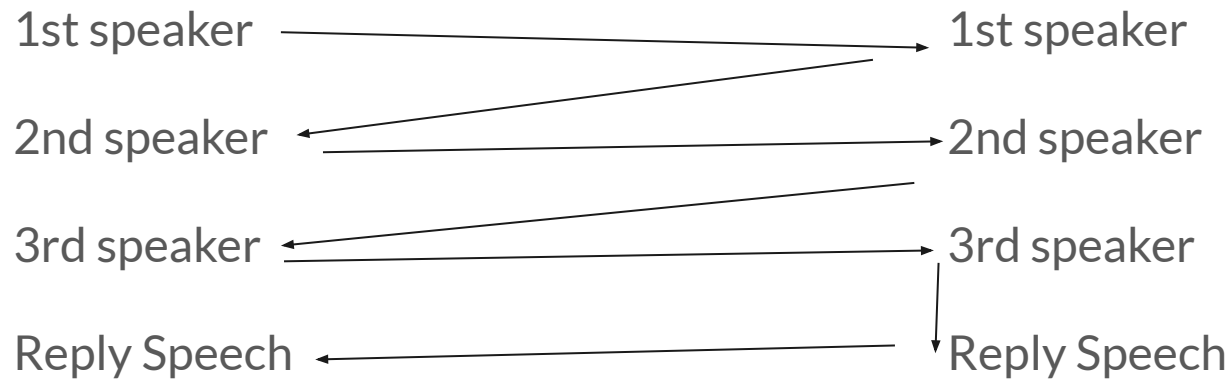
- Cast doubt on the proposition
- Should present substantive arguments of their own
- Accept, challenge or broaden definitions and framing
- Can provide a counter-model



# Speaking Order

Proposition

Opposition





# Who can introduce new material?

## Proposition

1st Speaker - Absolutely

2nd Speaker - Yes

3rd Speaker - Yes, but\*

Reply Speech - No!

## Opposition

1st Speaker - Absolutely

2nd Speaker - Yes

3rd Speaker - Yes, but\*

Reply Speech - No!



# Roles of the Speakers - 1st Prop

- Define the motion and establish any relevant frameworks.
- Introduce the mechanism / model if necessary
- Introduce & make Arguments



# Roles of the Speakers - 1st Opp

- If necessary, challenge the definition
- Provide / Challenge the framing of the motion
- If necessary, introduce an alternative mechanism (counter prop)
- Introduce & make Arguments
- Bring rebuttal (Opp)



# Roles of the Speakers - 2nd

- Respond to / extend challenges to the framework if necessary
- Bring rebuttal to the arguments of the other team
- Extend and further develop the constructive case
- Strengthen case



# Roles of the Speakers - 3rd

- Defend and develop own case
- Extend and advance rebuttal



# Roles of the Speakers - Replies

- Bring a retrospective overview of the debate
- Compare and analyze both team's arguments and cases
- Explain why they think their team won the debate
- Cannot bring new examples, arguments or rebuttal (except Prop reply...to an extent)



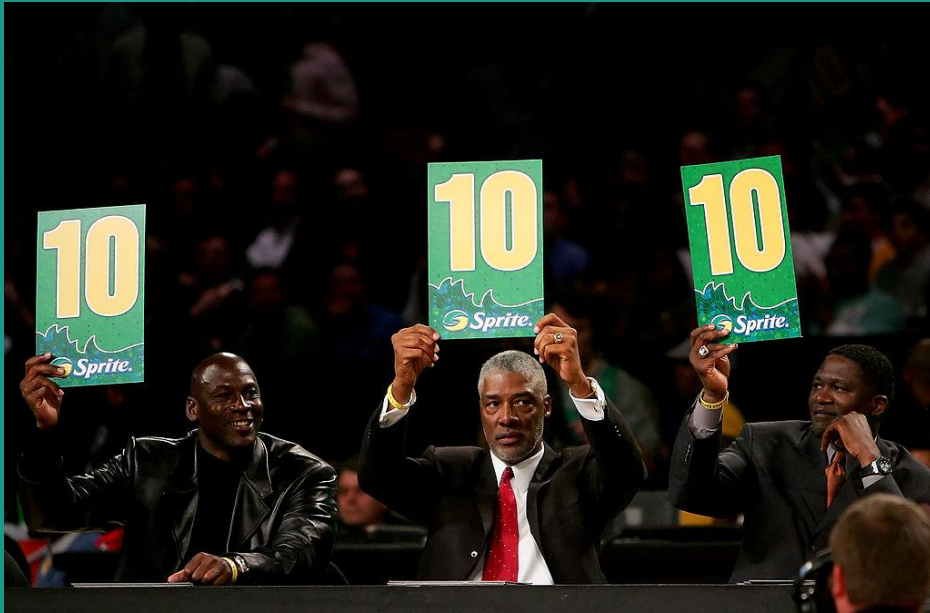


# Judging by context

- Value each speech within its own bubble before reflecting on the debate as a whole
- A first proposition can give a great speech with arguments that may not stand by the end of the debate
- A third speaker may sound excellent but if their responses are coming too late, that is a problem

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# The Scoring System





# The Scoring System

- Speaker score range between 60 and 80
- There are no low point wins!
- 0.5 is the only fraction allowed
- All 3 categories are meant to be judged independently (but can become intertwined)

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Overall (/100)</b>	<b>Style (/40)</b>	<b>Content (/40)</b>	<b>Strategy (/20)</b>
<i>Flawless</i>	80	32	32	16
<i>Incredible</i>	76-79	31	31	15-16
<i>Excellent</i>	74-75	30	30	15
<i>Good</i>	71-73	29	29	14-15
<i>Average</i>	70	28	28	14
<i>Below-Average</i>	67-69	27	27	13-15
<i>Weak</i>	65-66	26	26	13
<i>Struggling</i>	61-64	25	25	12-13
<i>Empty</i>	60	24	24	12



Score (round average)	Expected number of speeches (out of 1534)
76	34
77	20
78	11



# The Scoring Range

- 60 - 61: The worst speech you can see. Likely would have to be several minutes, if not more, under time. If they are speaking to time then they're likely being quite insulting. Think of a Donald Trump speech.
- 62 - 63: Spoke but didn't say much. Likely spoke several minutes under time. Arguments and rebuttal weren't very coherent. Likely dropped lots of arguments of the other team. Tried to speak but didn't achieve much.



# The Scoring Range

- 64 - 65: Hit on some ideas but still lacking. May have spoken several minutes under time, but not necessarily. Arguments and rebuttal touch on ideas but aren't well explained. Has some positives but all 3 criteria are at least slightly below average.
- 66 - 67: A below average speech. Has several issues although may be localized to a specific category or two. Generally considered a weak speech, but not one that is entirely without it's merits.



# The Scoring Range

- 64 - 66: Hit on some ideas but still lacking. May have spoken several minutes under time, but not necessarily. Arguments and rebuttal touch on ideas but aren't well explained. Has some positives but all 3 criteria are at least slightly below average.
- 66 - 67: A below average speech. Has several issues although may be localized to a specific category or two. Generally considered a weak speech, but not one that is entirely without its merits.





# The Scoring Range

- 68 - 69: A below average to an average speech. Did almost everything that would be expected of them, with varying degrees of success. Could have some areas of strength balanced out with struggles in others.
- 70 - 71: An average to an above average speech. Every category is likely done to at least an acceptable level, although might be better in some areas than others. Still room to improve.



# The Scoring Range

- 72 - 73: An above average to a very good speech. This is the type of speech you would likely be seeing from a speaker / team capable of breaking. Likely requires doing everything to at least an average standard with significant strengths or being above-average in each category. Perhaps their analysis is strong but they are inconsistent in addressing all arguments
- 74 - 75: A very good to excellent speech. This speaker will likely be one of the stronger speakers of the tournament. Consistently above-average in all areas of the debates but with a slight imbalance of strengths (excellent style, good strategy)



# The Scoring Range

- 76 - 78: A great speech to the best speech. The speaker will likely be amongst the best speakers of the tournament. There are few flaws within the speech. All aspects of the speech are very strong. You might be able to find some flaws but they are minimal compared to the positives of the speech.
- 79 - 80: Just about the highest possible score you can give. The kind of speech that may bring you to tears (in a good way). It is possible to award this score to a speaker but only in rare and exceptional circumstances. Virtually no mistakes.



# Important Notices Re: Scoring

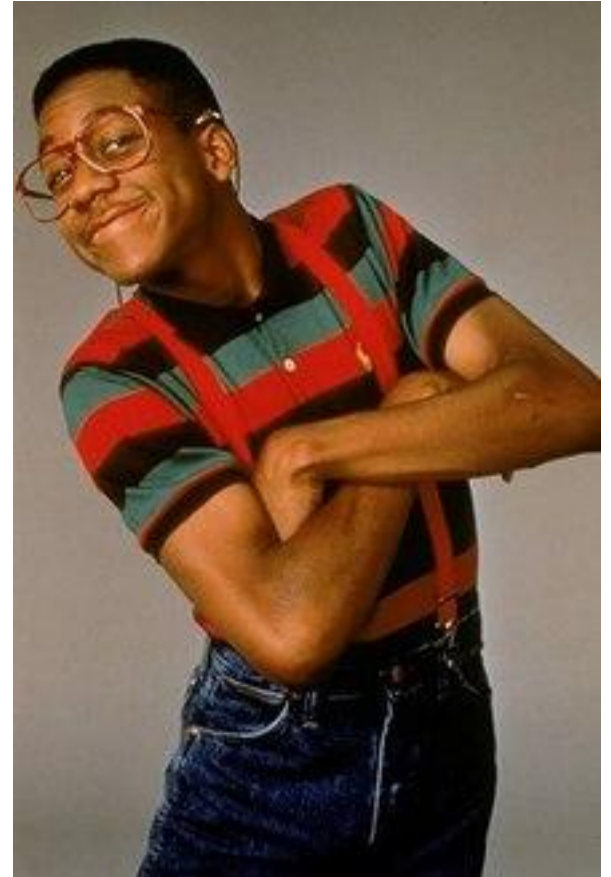
- ALWAYS adjust the scores if you think the scores do not reflect what you believe to be the result of the round
- Could be helpful to write down a preliminary score down after each speech

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# The Categories of Debate



Style





# Style

- Deals with how content is being presented
- Not judging command of the English language
- How engaging and persuasive is the speaker
- No singular acceptable style



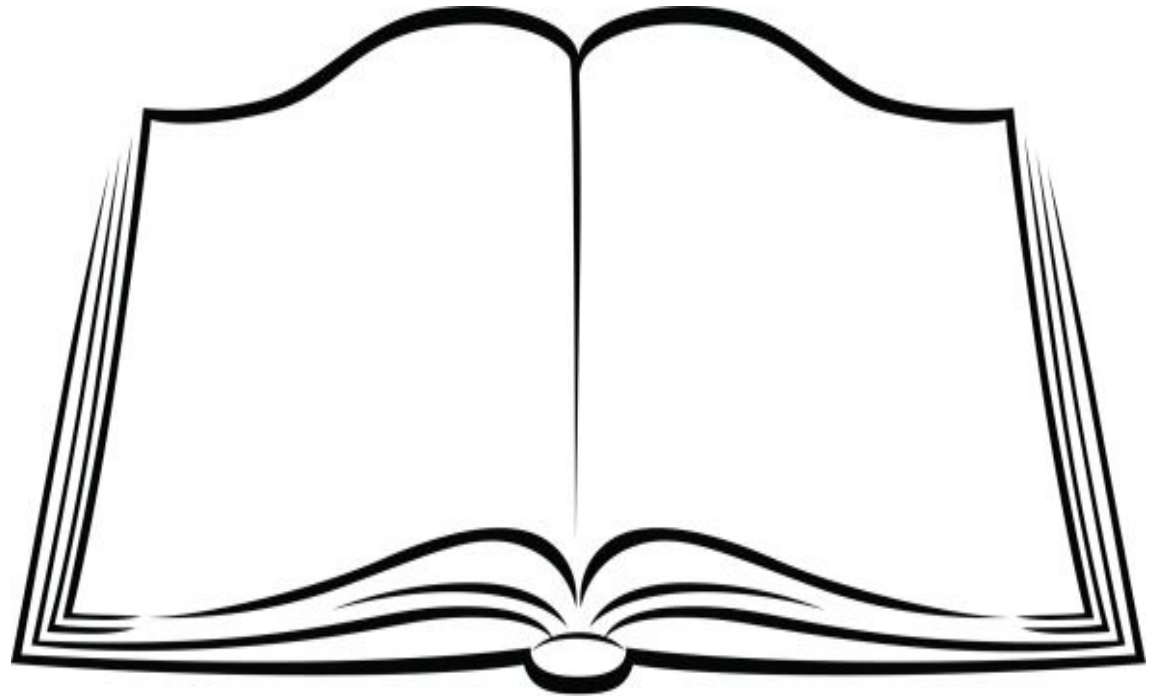
# Style - Best Practices

- Eye Contact
- Reading
- Gestures
- Stance
- Voice Modulation
- Speed
- Clarity
- Mannerisms





# Content





# Content

- Deals with WHAT is being presented
- Evaluates quality of material as if written down
- Covers both arguments AND rebuttal



# Content - Cont.

- If an argument is weak / poorly developed, take points away
- Bad arguments can win debates!
- NEVER step in to complete the analysis / argument for the other team

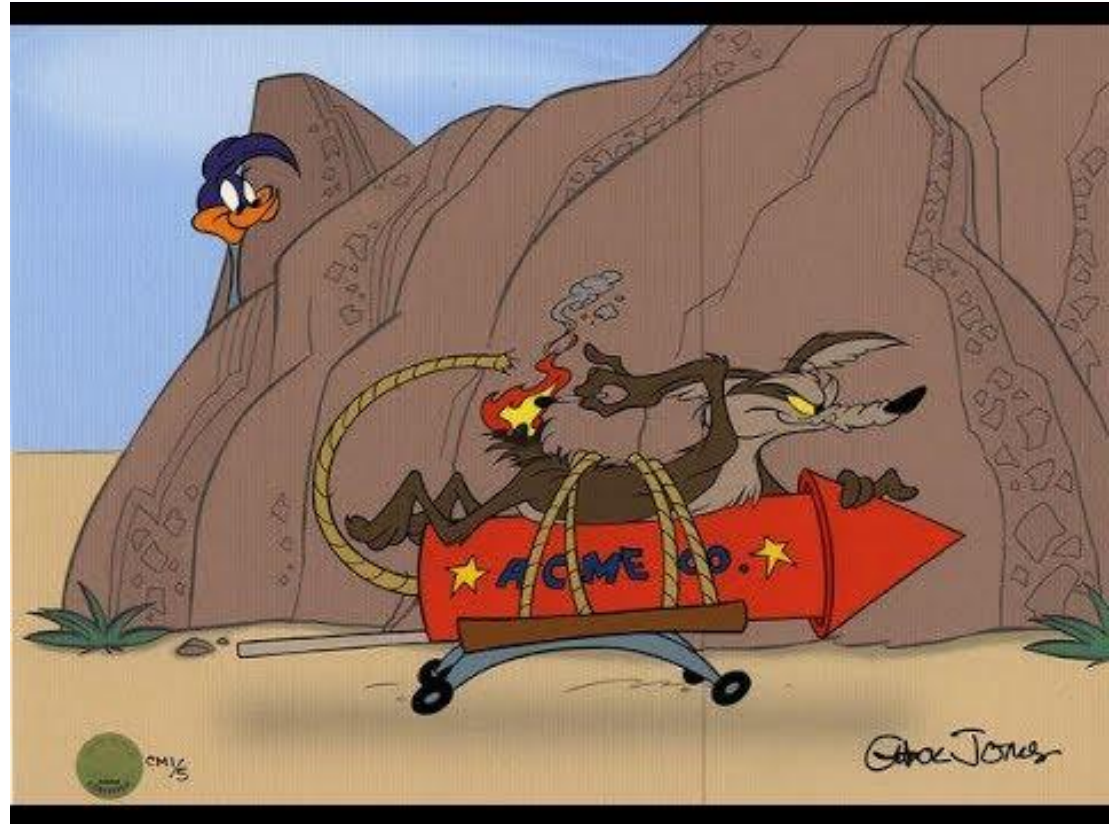


# Content - Best Practices

- What is good analysis?
  - Rigorous Logic
  - Relevance
  - Frame
  - Evolution

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# Strategy





# Strategy

- Deals with WHY & HOW content is being said
- Includes -
  - Interpretation of the motion
  - Relevance to the motion
  - Time Allocation
  - Structuring of Speeches
  - Consistency
  - Points of Information



# Strategy - What to keep in mind

- Always reward strategy, even when not executed properly
- Teams should ALWAYS engage with their opponents
- POIs are an important part of strategy
- Teams should be honest and fair in their strategy, both in framing and responses

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# How to decide who won?







# What matters?

- Holistic evaluation of the 3 categories
- Impact of the arguments
- What was given the most importance in the round?
- What were the big questions of the debate and how were they answered?

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# What happens after the round?





# Deliberation

- 5 minutes to come to a decision and fill out the ballot
- 5-10 minutes to discuss decision with panel
- CANNOT change decision after discussion begins

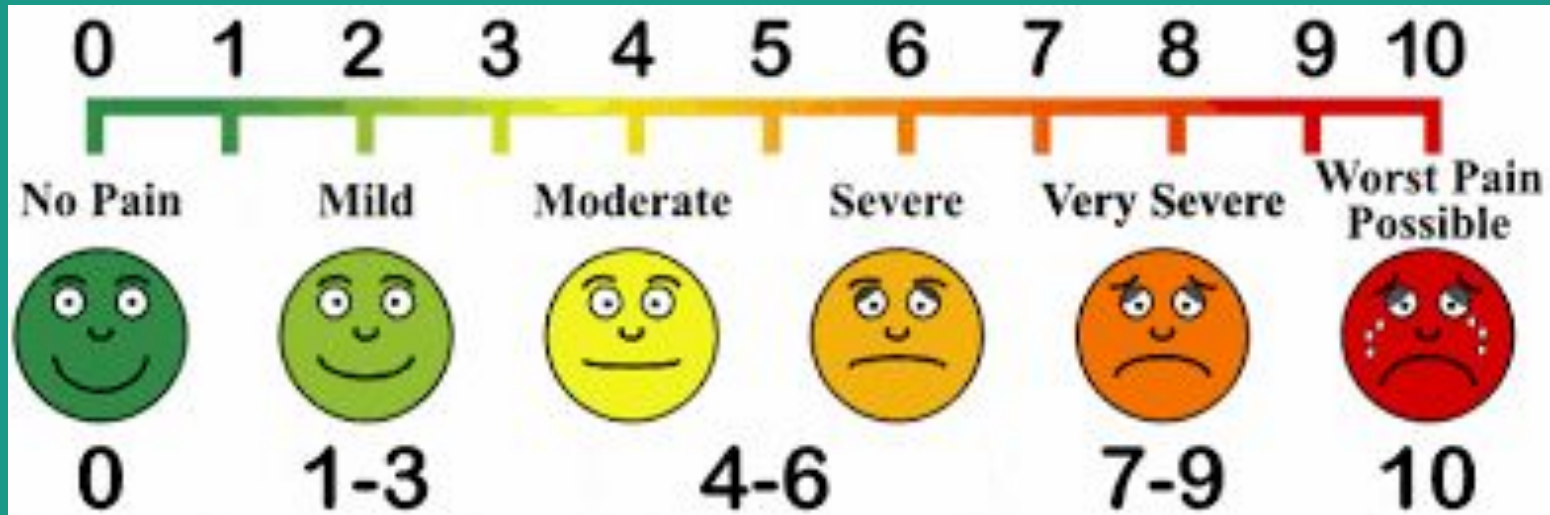


# Reason for Decision

- Keep it short, no more than 5 - 6 minutes
- Should address key issues in the debate
- Should address all 3 categories
- Decision should ALWAYS be announced first (in Preliminary Rounds)
- Be Specific!!!

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# Feedback





# Feedback

- Be empathetic
- This is an educational activity!
- Celebrate successes
- Be positive but constructive



# Feedback - Big No's

- You are NOT here to relive your glory days
- You are NOT here to flex your knowledge
- You are NOT here to be:
  - Rude
  - Arrogant
  - Condescending
- Expectation of behavioral standards for judges



# Feedback - Be Constructive

- RFDs are about the past and present. Feedback is about the future!
- Be structured and specific
- Dedicate time equally to all speakers and teams
- Try to limit yourself



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# Additional things to look for





# What to do in a round

- Ask for people's preferred pronouns before the start of the round
- Coaches are not allowed to make signs or signals to debaters beyond time signals
- Make yourself available for feedback

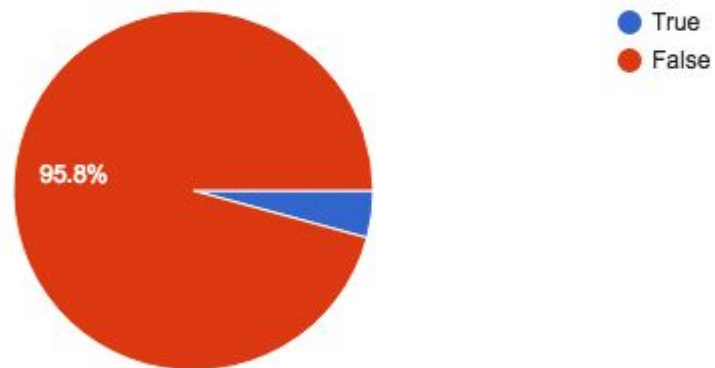


# Online Test



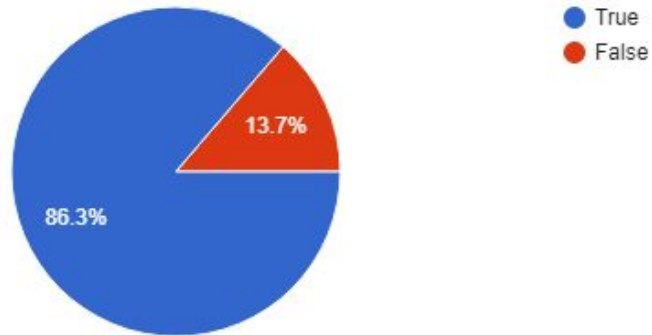
If a speaker is hard for the judge to understand because of their accent the judge should give them a lower speaker score.

95 responses



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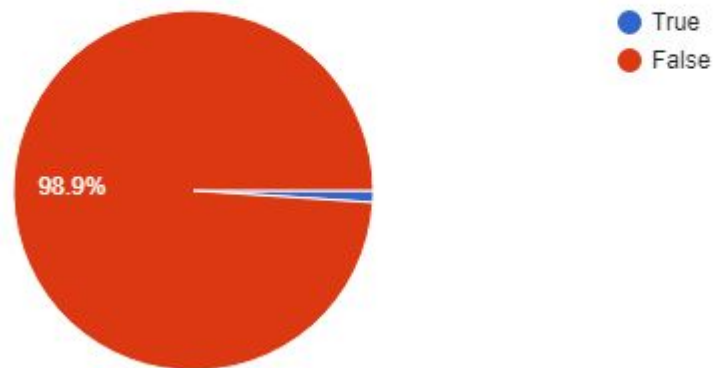
If a judge finds a speaker hard to follow and understand because of their choice of words and pace of speaking the judge is allowed to consider a lower speaker score than otherwise.






The team that has the most arguments should win the debate.

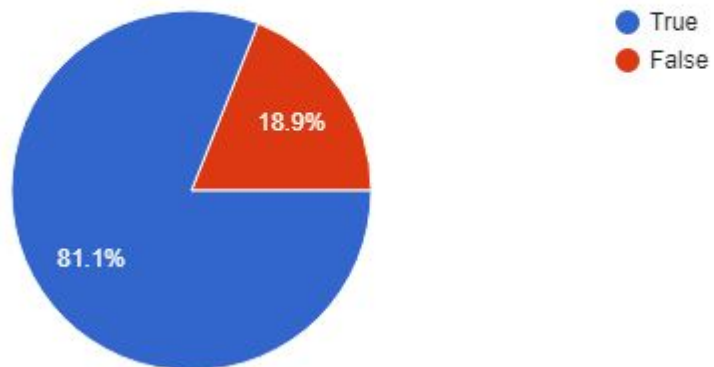
95 responses





The opposition third speaker may add new points of rebuttal and examples.

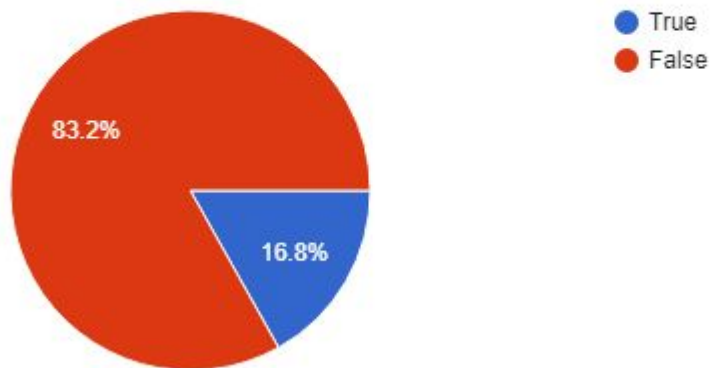
95 responses





## The Proposition must propose a model or policy.

95 responses

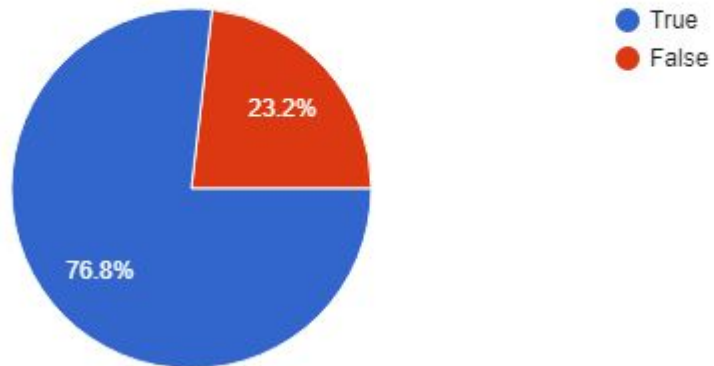






Only the 1st Opposition speaker may challenge the definition.

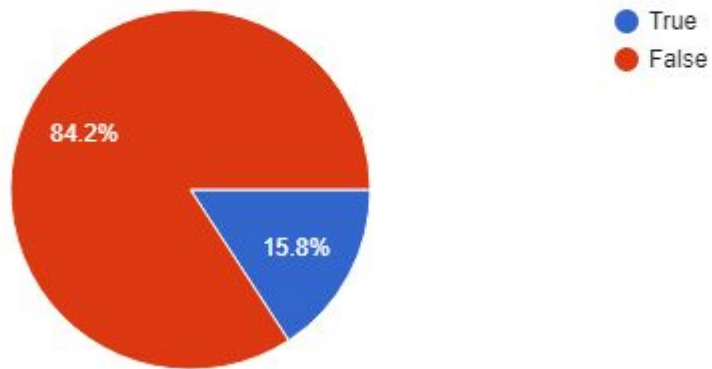
95 responses





A speaker must rebut all the points of the previous speaker, and should be penalized if they haven't done so.

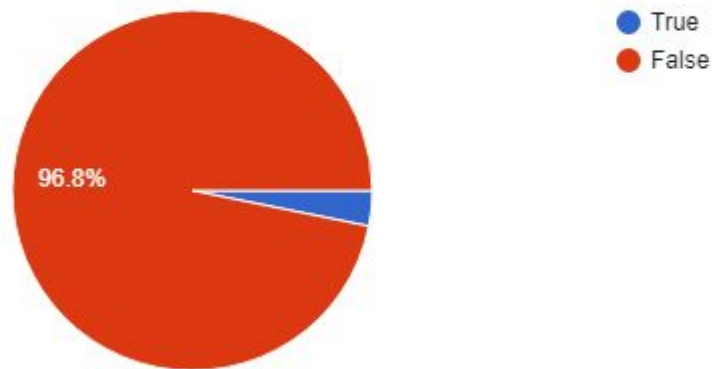
95 responses





A speaker with good style is better than a speaker with good content.

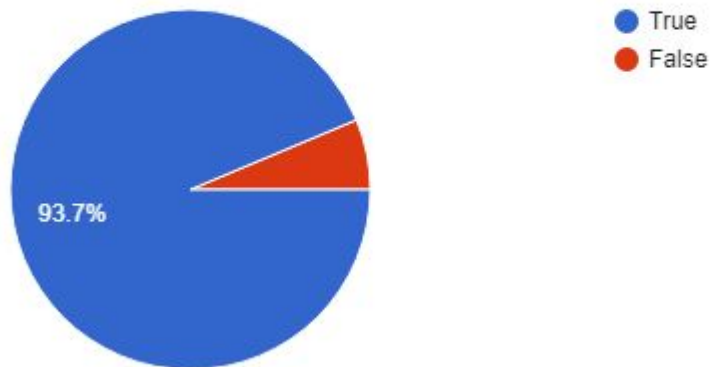
95 responses





An average speech at WSDC would score 70.

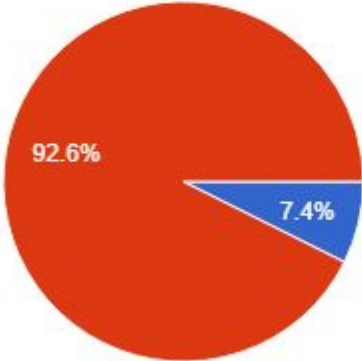
95 responses





### Teams can tie on speaker points.

95 responses

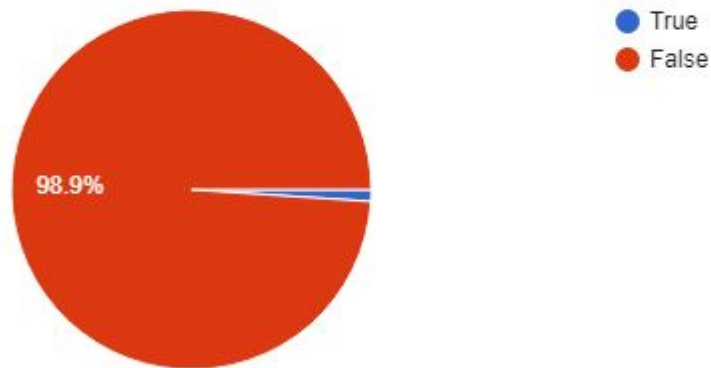


- True
- False



The highest speaker mark in the room should always be allocated to a speaker from the winning team.

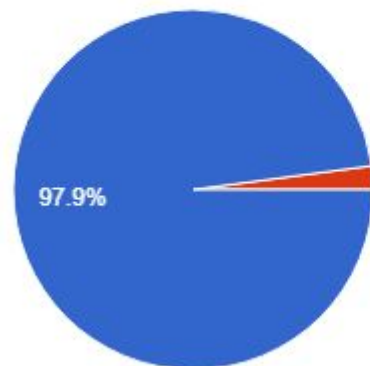
95 responses






## Speakers can tie on speaker points.

95 responses

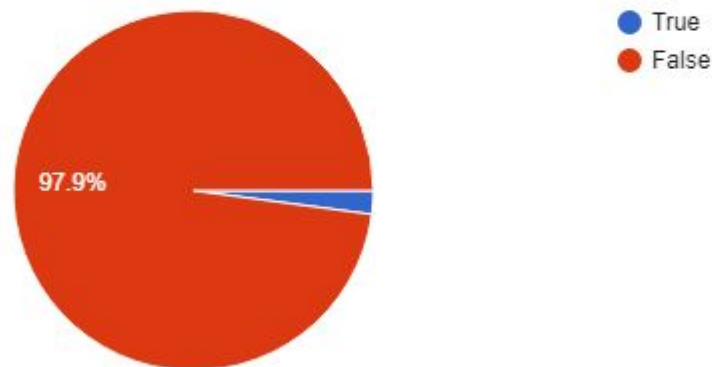


- True
- False



The breakdown in marking a speaker is Content - 20, Strategy - 40 and Style - 40 .

95 responses

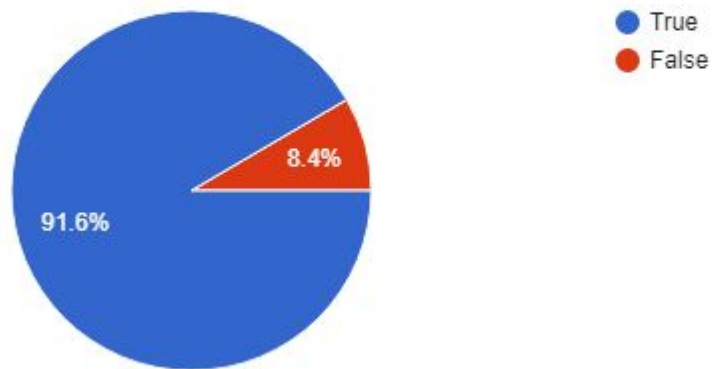






Fractions of marks are allowed (30.5).

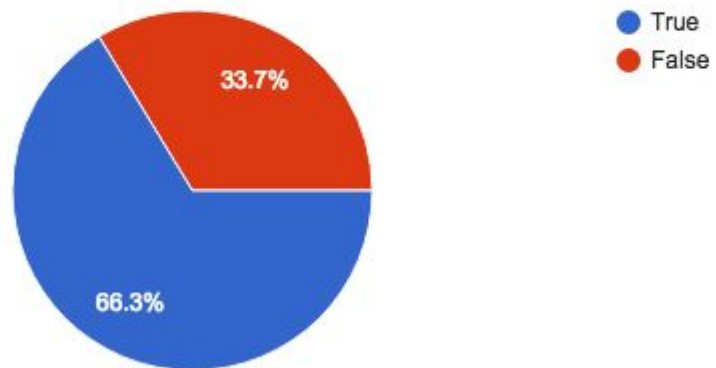
95 responses





There is no restriction on the maximum point difference between teams.

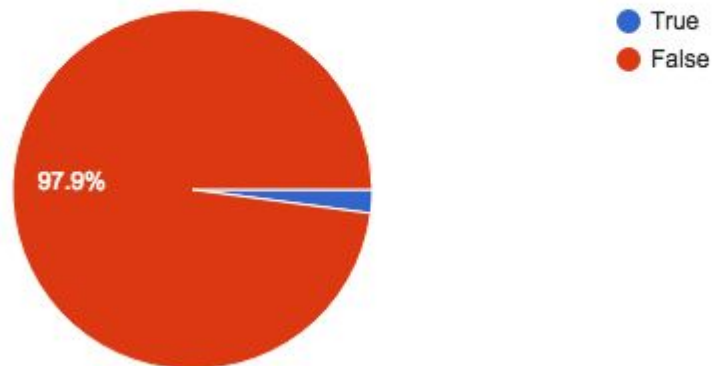
95 responses






A speaker that did not accept a POI can never get a speaker mark above 70.

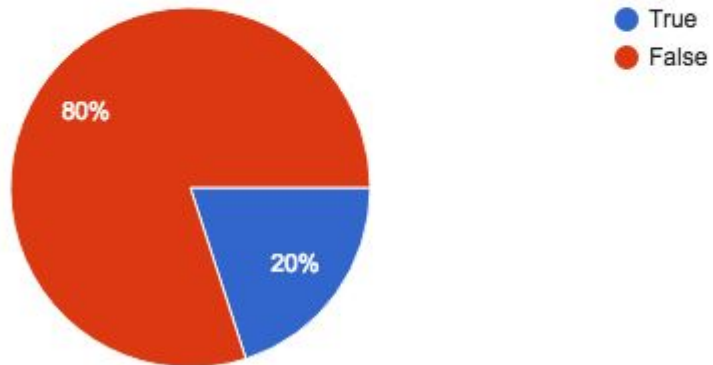
95 responses





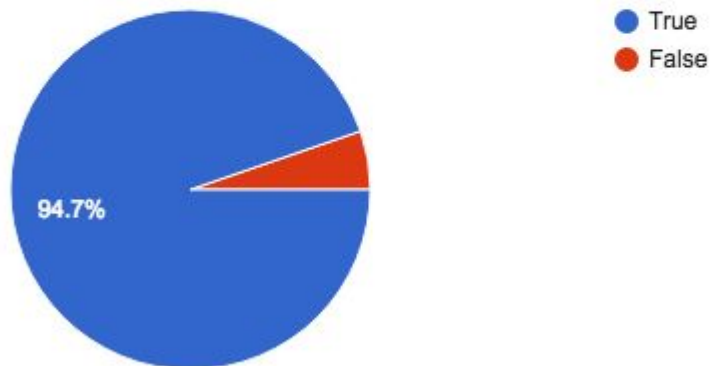
An adjudicator cannot give less weight to an argument made by a team unless it is refuted by another team.

95 responses



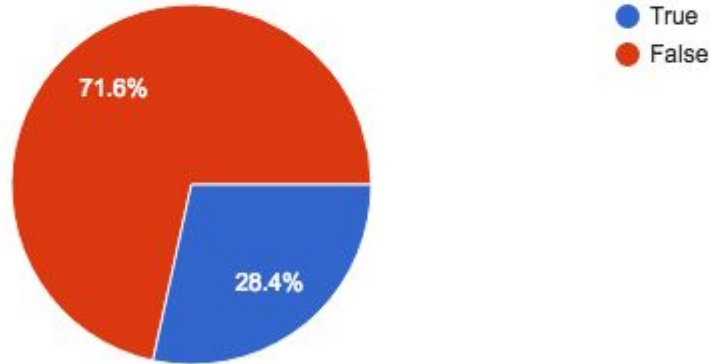
A judge can give less weight to material if it is based on a premise that an average reasonable person would know to be factually inaccurate.


95 responses



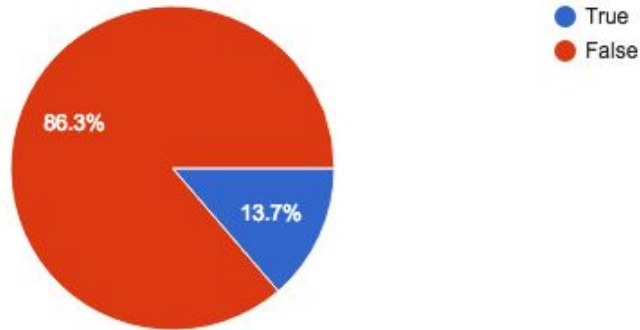
Unless stated otherwise in the motion, or one of the teams makes a strong argument to the contrary, debates are assessed from a utilitarian preoperative.

95 responses



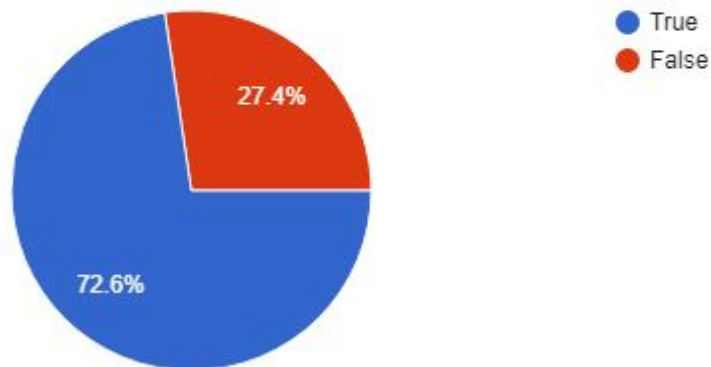


On the motion "THW pay all elected politicians the median wage in their country", it is acceptable for the opposition to run the line that every legislation must be approved by parliament, and the current parliament members will never approve this law.




On the motion 'This House Would ban political opinion polls', it is acceptable for proposition to limit this debate to liberal democracies.

95 responses

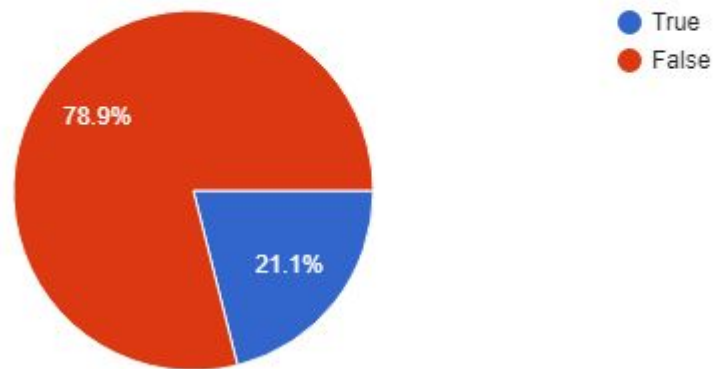






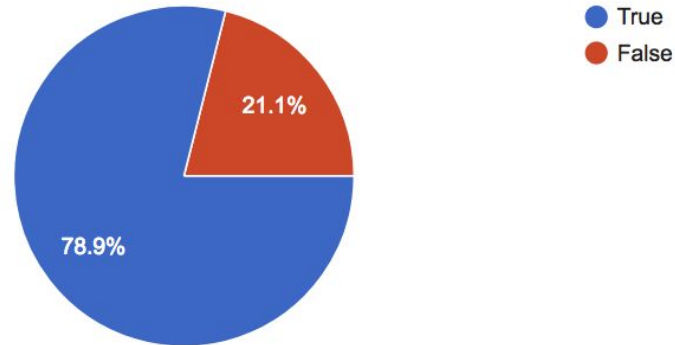
On the motion 'This House would place tolls on all roads' Proposition suggest they would place tolls only on major motorways. This is valid.

95 responses



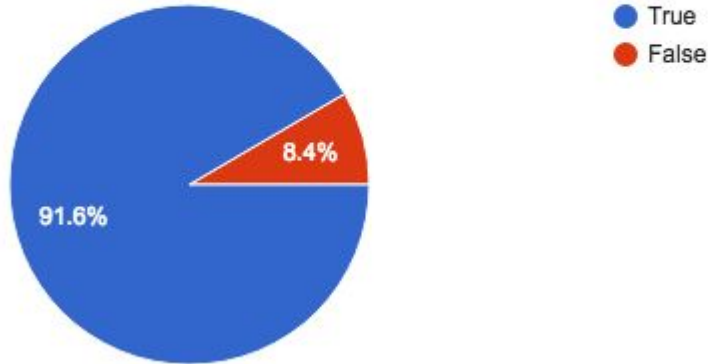
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On the motion 'This House would use community service as a punishment in place of prisons', Proposition states that it will only do this for young non-violent offenders. Opposition would be justified in challenging this definition.



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1st Proposition speaker: “We believe that the United States should invade Syria at once and install a new government.” 1st Opposition speaker: “We believe that the United States should invade Syria at once, but they should also give economic assistance to a new Syrian regime.” Oppositions counter-prop is not mutually exclusive with Proposition and therefore fails to establish a clash within the debate.



# Debate



Which team did you give the win to? [Prop](#)

Please indicate your scoring of the debate (including the score breakdown)

P1	72-74	O1	68-69.5
P2	72-74	O2	67-68
P3	72-75	O3	65-67
REPLY	36-37	REPLY	34-35
MARGINS	10-25		

## Please explain the reasoning behind your decision



**Stylistically:** Proposition had an edge in terms of style. Their choice of rhetorical language and recurring imagery in terms of the River Styx and other such references enhanced the argumentation and team line. For Opposition, this sort of thing sometimes hindered clarity; for example, the germ analogy used made the point that opp was trying to make more convoluted. Opposition also needed to speak with more volume since on occasion phrases were occasionally lost (although a lot of this may have been due to the video).


**Content and Strategy:** Two clashes in the debate. First: whether the government is legitimate in restricting the choice of people to move. Second: whether limitations on rural-urban migration deal with the problems in both.

First Clash: Proposition claimed that choice can be restricted in three cases: Firstly, when there is individual harm. Secondly, when there is societal harm. Thirdly, when choice is irrational. Within, showed that there are economic harms to the individual, societal harms through crime etc., and that the choice is irrational because people are deciding on limited information/desperation. Opp claimed that people have a right to equal opportunity and access, and the line that these are symptoms not problems. Prop win because:

1. Opposition do not sufficiently respond to Proposition; merely asserted “right to equal opportunity and services” without showing what this choice looks like and its impacts, and were counterclaiming Prop. This made their own argumentation uncomparative.

2. Saying that “these are symptoms” was not responding to choice; needed to show that given that these things are not the problem, an infringement of choice is illegitimate.

3. Opp ended up conceding most of the harms that Proposition analysed, without then showing why this choice is legitimate.




Second Clash: Proposition claimed that limitations slow things down and this lets the government plan, and incentives are created solve problems in rural, and by extension, urban areas. Opposition claimed that the government should redistribute to rural areas, setting benchmarks.

Prop win because:

1. Opp's mechanisms are not mutually exclusive as Prop pointed out. Prop win on Opp's grounds.
2. Prop incentives not sufficiently dealt with; the most explicit response coming out in the reply. By end these stood as independent from whether Opp won choice.
3. While underanalysed, Proposition successfully showed that time is necessary for planning to deal with the aforementioned issues.

Opposition also often ran overtime by quite a bit, harming them strategically.



In terms of style, there was quite a significant difference, with South Africa using much clearer language coupled with engaging eye contact and intonation. Botswana lack structure in their speeches, as well as clarity when it comes to choices of language used and pace of speaking.

The first clash is on the principle: Legitimacy in Restriction vs Movement. Here, South Africa bring the idea of government legitimacy and Botswana bring the importance of free movement and autonomy. South Africa win this clash quite clearly. They do a reasonable job bringing forward criteria for when the government is justified in limiting the choices of individuals. This argumentation goes largely un-responded to. The only response is that people deserve the right to pursue opportunities for themselves. This is insufficient at the point at which South Africa have explained that the reality looks like only a tiny minority of migrants being successful in gaining employment. South Africa say this is even worse at the point where this is an irrational decision. Botswana's analysis or rebuttal never makes it past the stage of assertiveness, especially with regards to the importance of free movement. Being the only piece of principled matter coming out of Botswana's side, it is quite under-analysed. As a result, it becomes very difficult for Botswana to explain why it is unlike other cases where states limit choice.

The second clash is on the practical, where what happens to both urban and rural areas was discussed. South Africa bring two arguments here. The first one was the harms of uncontrolled migration to urban areas. This is very much ignored by Botswana, however, South Africa decide to de-prioritise it and it does not become that major a clash in the debate. The second one was that rural areas themselves improve because there are now incentives for states to focus policies in these areas. This was very strategically beneficial at the point where it beats the opposition on their own metric of "equal distribution". Botswana fail to respond to this sufficiently, meaning they accept there are increased incentives to improve these areas under prop. This is massively problematic, because they set their metric to be equal distribution and improvement of these areas, and then let South Africa win on that metric. Botswana claim that there needs to be an equal distribution of resources, but don't explain why this is mutually exclusive to their side nor why this is more likely to happen under their side. The proposition give POI's to Botswana pushing for a response to this argument but still here nothing. Lack of engagement was again a very large reason as to why Botswana lose this clash.

## Did the use of emotive and rhetorical language aid or hamper the teams?

The effectiveness varied. In general, team proposition were more effective in their rhetoric **oriented around hellish imagery**. However, this may lead the audience to question why economic migrants continue to live in such circumstances and whether that is evidence by itself that conditions in rural setting are even worse. Since this issue was **not raised by the opposition**, the rhetorical device of hell did not become a meaningful hurdle. Side opposition had mixed success with rhetoric and metaphors. While their **analogy of beacons of light** was effective, perhaps the second opposition should **not have given so much time to the mucus analogy**.

The use of emotive and rhetorical language aided the proposition, particularly their third, as it allowed its case to be presented in a convincing and persuasive way. It also enabled it to establish a compelling characterisation regarding awful life was in urban areas, that was continued through all their speakers. However, it would have helped to have more variation throughout all their speakers to create some internal contrast as often speeches became quite repetitive and lost impact. Comparatively the lack of such emotion and rhetorical language on side opposition hampered their team and decreased the convincingness of their arguments.

## What was the proposition model and how detailed was it? Was a model required?

Prop's model is that they will **limit both the number of individuals who move** to urban areas, and **which urban areas** they move to. This is not particularly detailed (i.e. it **lacks a precise mechanism** - permits etc- and scale/numbers involved) but **doesn't become an issue** in this particular debate. I can imagine a purely theoretical debate without regard to practicalities, and that would have been a reasonable debate too, and so I wouldn't say a model is strictly necessary, but obviously **strategic for the purposes of allowing Proposition to claim benefits** that are contingent on a particular mechanism .



## Did the opposition have to prove that its solution was mutually exclusive to the proposition's solution?

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Not necessarily. But opposition should have proven why governments were unlikely to divert resources to rural areas under proposition's solution. This would have strengthened their case.

Yes, in so far as it becomes their main contention against efficacy of prop's policy

## Was the proposition second speakers argumentation about incentives strategically valuable?

The second speaker's argument on incentives was valuable. It was essentially what **made the opposition's solution and case not mutually exclusive** to their side given that it showed how you could both limit migration and have the equal distribution of resources the opposition vouched for. Although some parts of it were **underdeveloped and presented at the very end** of the second speech, it was enough to give proposition a winning advantage; especially **considering opposition's lack of engagement**.

**Partially.** The second speaker made a good point (reinforced by the third speaker) of how people leaving rural areas prevented the areas' development. The government would always choose to focus on the pressing urban crisis and has less incentive to act in the rural. Nevertheless, I think that the incentives part was messy and unclear. Especially the aspect of elite pressure. It is unclear why would the elite pressure for rural development. As a judge, are you responsible for stopping a point of information offered after the second bell? Would you deduct points for this, and if so, where?

**As a judge, are you responsible for stopping a point of information offered after the second bell?  
Would you deduct points for this, and if so, where? (1 mark)**

I am responsible for stopping POIs after the second bell. I would not usually deduct points, unless the speaker giving the POI has an evident **malign intent** to distract or intimidate the speaker giving the speech. Most times it occurs, it is due to speakers not being aware of the time. If I were to deduct points, I would do so in **the POI column**. If there was none, then in strategy.