



MACAU ONLINE WSDC 2021

Speaker Training

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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- This presentation is based on briefings from past WSDCs and it has been adapted based on feedback received so far from the WSDC community.

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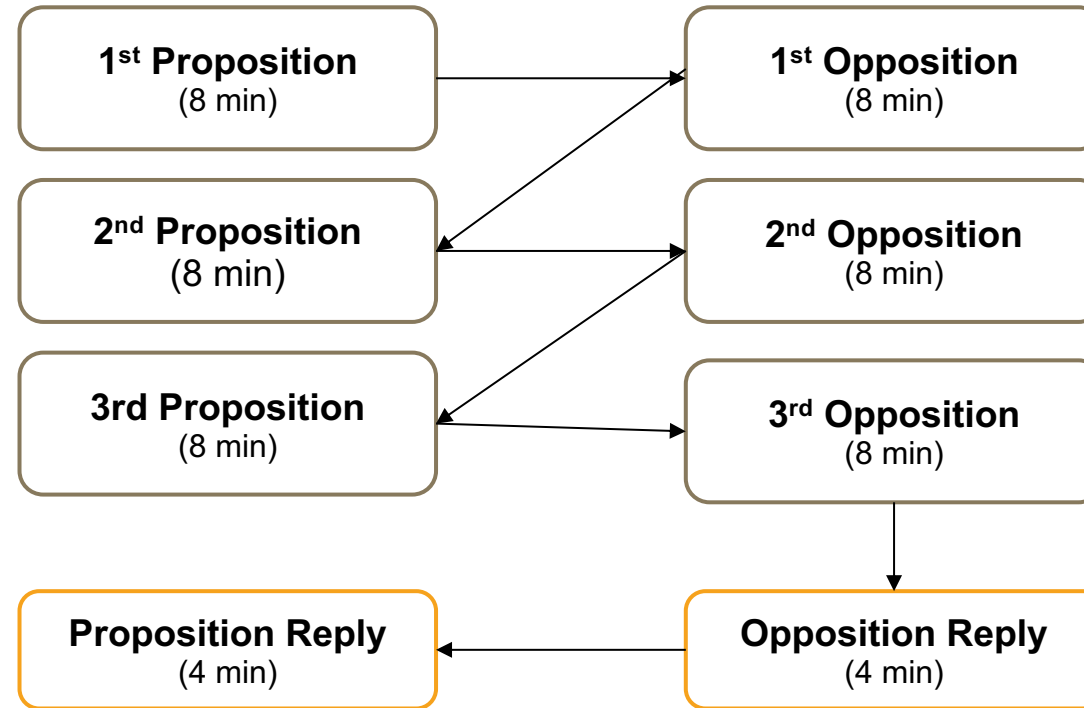
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WSDC FORMAT

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Only 1st or 2nd speakers can deliver the reply speech

TEAM AND SPEAKER ROLES

Proposition

Opposition

Team role	Proposition	Opposition
Team role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the motion in a way that is clear and fair to both sides Present their characterization of the status quo and substantive arguments in favour of their case Where appropriate, should present a solution to the identified problem(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must oppose the motion May set up its case purely on rebuttal of Proposition, but this is strategically risky. May have substantive arguments of its own, including proposing a 'counter-model.
First Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the motion and establish relevant frameworks Introduce action plan ("model") if the team chooses to tackle the motion with one Introduce and develop constructive material ("arguments") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge definition if necessary Bring Rebuttal – this can be both of the plan and <u>proposition's</u> constructive material Introduce own stance (could be the status quo, or a counter-model) Bring constructive material (advised)
Second Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with challenges of the definition, <u>if</u> necessary Bring rebuttal to first opposition speaker Extend and further develop the constructive case of proposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring rebuttal to extension and extend and further develop the case of the proposition Extend the constructive case of opposition, if they have one
Third Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend and further develop their constructive case Bring rebuttal to <u>Opposition's</u> constructive case, if they have one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring rebuttal to <u>Proposition's</u> constructive case Extend and further develop <u>Opposition's</u> constructive case, if they have one
Reply Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring a holistic overview of the debate Compare and analyse both teams' argumentative cases Explain why they think their team won, without adding non-derivative new material 	

THIRD SPEECHES

- 3rd speeches in WSDC style may include a small part of their teams substantive case, IF flagged in the case division announced by the 1st speaker. However, they are not required to include new arguments in their case
- The role of the 3rd speaker is to respond to the other team's case. Both 3rd speakers should respond to what has happened in the debate before their speech. "Responding" is a broad term covering:
 - Direct rebuttal to an argument that the other team has made, which means providing a critique of the logic in the argument or providing new explanations for why the conclusion reached in the other side's argument is wrong
 - Weighing of arguments by providing analysis of the relative importance of arguments or impacts
 - Indirect comments or analysis about an existing clash point: providing new conclusions or impacts which can be weighed against the conclusions reached by the other team
 - New contextual or characterisation analysis which broadens the understanding of conclusions reached by either team
 - New examples which provide deeper understanding of the arguments being made or existing rebuttal
- "Newness" in a 3rd speech is not sufficient justification to discredit material at 3rd. We encourage judges to think more critically about whether the material meets the definition of "responsiveness".
- However, teams should be aware of strategic trade offs made when best responses come at third, even if the material is not discredited for "newness" backloading responses would count as poor strategy.

REPLY SPEECHES

- The reply speaker may be either the first or second speaker of the team, but not the third.
- The reply speakers are in reverse order, with the Opposition reply first and the Proposition reply last.
- Neither reply speaker may introduce a new part of the team case.
- The role of the reply speeches is to sum up the debate from the team's viewpoint, including a response to the other team's overall case and a summary of the speaker's own team's case.
- A reply speaker may respond to an existing argument by raising a new example that illustrates that argument but may not otherwise introduce a new argument.
- Good reply speeches do not just report on the debate that happened, but contribute to the team's overall strategy and approach in the debate, in order to shape how the debate has evolved and panned out

Points Of Information

- Short comment/question addressed to person currently speaking by a member of the opposing team
- Speaker who has the floor has a right to refuse POIs, but as a general rule, should accept at least 2.
- If a speaker accepts a POI, they must ensure that the person offering the POI is given adequate time to express their comments (max of 15 seconds). Similarly, if a speaker's POI is rejected, they should wait 15 seconds before offering another.
- Speakers may offer POIs any time between the 1st and 7th minute.
- All POIs should be done through video, audio, or text. POIs may be asked by holding up a piece of paper with POI written on it, or unmuting yourself and stating POI, or typing POI into the chat.
- Debaters should make clear at the beginning of their speech how they would prefer to receive POIs.

SUBSTITUTION RULE

- Before the debate begins, debaters are asked to name three (3) members of their team to speak. Once named, only these three members may speak in that round.
- A “substitution speech” occurs when one of the three speakers who was initially designated to speak is unable to speak/complete their speech e.g. Internet droppage,
- There are two possible scenarios and reactions

Scenario A: The speaker was unable to give a speech at all

Scenario B: The speaker is speaking and drops off permanently midway

- If a speaker drops off a call and is unable to rejoin, prior to beginning their speech:
 - The Judge will allow a reasonable period of time to rejoin (maximum 5 minutes)
 - Another speaker from that team who was announced by the chairperson as speaking in that debate may deliver a speech in substitution (i.e. the 4th or 5th member of the team may NOT replace the dropped speaker).

SUBSTITUTION RULE

- If this happens in the middle of their speech, the team is given 1 minute to decide between two options:
 - a) have the unfinished speech marked as is (as if the speech ended there) or
 - b) have another speaker from that team who was announced by the chairperson as speaking in that debate to
continue the speech for the remaining time.
- E.g. Prop 2 was speaking and is cut off at 4 minutes. Assuming Prop decides to make Prop 1 speak for the remaining 4 minutes, Prop 2 will be the designated substitute speech. Team needs to declare that they are doing the substitute speech and declare who is giving the speech.
- If a team fails to choose, the default is Option A.
- A team may make use of substitute speakers in up to four preliminary rounds, without becoming ineligible to qualify for the break rounds or to receive team awards.

SUBSTITUTION RULE

- Question Received: What if the Third Speaker dropped out, and the First/Second Speaker who was initially designated to also deliver the Reply speech also delivers the Substitution speech for the Third Speaker, would the First/Second Speaker be allowed to deliver the Reply speech?
- In the event that the speaker was originally declared to give the reply speech, they would be allowed to do so.

RANKING OF TEAMS AND SPEAKERS

- Team Rankings (for generation of next-round preliminary round draw)
 - Teams will be ranked in the following order:
 - Number of wins obtained (before adjusting for bye-rounds, if applicable)
 - Average total speaker score (before substitution rule penalty)
 - Total number ballots received (before adjusting for bye-rounds, if applicable)
- Team Rankings (for Break)
 - Teams will be ranked in the following order:
 - Number of wins obtained (after adjusting for bye-rounds, if applicable)
 - Total number of ballots received (after adjusting for bye-rounds, if applicable)
 - Average total speaker score (after substitution rule penalty)
 - Average winning margins
- Individual Speaker Ranking
 - Speakers will be ranked by their average scores (excluding the substitution speech penalty)
 - Speakers must speak for a minimum of 4 rounds to be eligible to be ranked as Speakers.

BYE-ROUNDS AND WALKOVERS

- There could be cases where teams may not debate and receive a win/loss depending on the circumstance. Please refer to the below table for a summary of when these might happen, and what the rules are.

	Bye Round	Walkover Win / Loss
When do we have this?	When all members of the judging panel drops out, are unable to return, and due to logistical reasons, we are unable to reschedule / postpone the match.	When one team fails to show up for a round.
How are wins determined?	If you win a majority of your other rounds, you win this round. If you lose a majority of your other rounds, you lose this round.	If you were present, you get a win. If you were absent, you get a loss.
How are ballots calculated?	See the next slide	If you were present, you get 3 ballots. If you were absent, you get 0 ballots.
How are teams scored?	Average of all scores obtained in other rounds	Average of all scores obtained in other rounds

HOW WILL BALLOTS FOR BYE ROUNDS BE CALCULATED?

Average Number of Judges Won in Other Rounds	Number of Ballots Received for Bye-Round
Average is more than 2.5 judges per round	3 ballots
Average is more than 1.5 judges but less than/equal to 2.5 judges per round	2 ballots
Average is more than 0.5 judges but less than/equal to 1.5 judges per round	1 ballot
Average is less than/equal to 0.5 judges	0 ballots

HOW WILL SCORES BE CALCULATED FOR A BYE/WALKOVER WIN/LOSS?

- Circumstance: A team received a walkover win/loss or a bye-round, and uses the substitution rule in another round. Would we count the score of the substitution speaker before adjustment, or after adjustment, for the purposes of speaker awards or break generation?
- Individual Speaker Scores
 - Will not count the substitution speech score (neither the original or adjusted) for the purposes of speaker rankings
- Team Scores (Speaks)
 - For the purposes of the break, we will count the substitution speaker score after adjustment (lower possible score).

CASE SET-UP

INTERPRETING A MOTION

- A Motion is a Topic to be debated in the round and can be phrased in several ways starting with “This House”.
- Who is “This House”?
Usually, the state or a collective group of neutral actors (we as a collective):
 - This House would ban smoking
 - This House believes that judges should be elected rather than appointedSometimes a specific actor is defined in the motion, in which case the action is being done by this actor, not an abstract state or society in general
 - This House believes that schools should permanently expel bullies
 - This House believes that democratic nations should refuse to sell arms to non-democratic nations
- Information slide: Sometimes, an ‘Information-slide’ may be provided to provide clarity and necessary specific knowledge. Any information on this slide is assumed to be true for the debate and should be treated as a part of the motion by teams and judges.
- Requests for Clarifications: Once debaters have seen the motion, they may request publicly for clarification of the word(s) in the motion that are unclear to them on Zoom call. Further clarifications may be requested within the first 15 minutes of their preparation time; if one team in a debate requests clarification, their opponents shall also be provided with the same clarification.
- Requests for Clarification must come from the debaters and not from coaches/ team managers / observers on debaters’ behalf.

DEFINITIONS

IN THE SPIRIT OF DEBATING AT A GLOBAL COMPETITION, AND OF SETTING FAIR DEFINITIONS, TEAMS CANNOT SQUIRREL, UNFAIRLY NARROW, AND/OR PLACE OR TIME-SET DEBATES

Squirreling: Distorting the topic and defining it in a way that violates the spirit of the motion

“THW ban gambling” cannot be defined as banning risky behaviors such as taking hard drugs, as a way of “gambling with one’s life”. Gambling has an obvious meaning, which is the betting or staking of money or something of value, on the outcome of a game, a or an uncertain event whose result is determined by chance.

Disallowing opposition room for debate

“TH supports cosmetic surgery” cannot be defined as supporting it only for burn victims. This would make it impossible for Opposition to do the debate.

Refusing to debate the motion at the level of specificity or abstraction the motion requires

In *“THW restrict civil liberties in the name of national security”*, a definition that defends exclusively compulsory ID cards is too narrow. Compulsory ID cards may be an example of a national security policy that is defended by the Proposition team, but the debate extends beyond this example to a more general principle.

Place-setting: Narrowing the debate arbitrarily to specific places not specified by the motion

In *“THW ban commercial surrogacy”*, it is not legitimate to set the debate “only in low-income nations”. Examples from these countries may be used, but the debate has a global context. However, in *THW ban non-democratic countries from hosting international sporting events*, Proposition can identify reasonable criteria for what constitutes a democracy.

Time-setting: Narrowing the debate arbitrarily to a time that is *not* the present when unspecified

THBT citizens should engage in civil disobedience to protest unjust laws: Proposition cannot define the policy in the context of apartheid in South Africa from 1948 until the 1990s, even though they may use this as an example
THBT NATO should not have withdrawn combat troops from Afghanistan: Proposition can set the context of the debate to the period when they contemplated the withdrawal of troops (2011-2014) as it’s implicit in the motion

CHALLENGING A DEFINITION

- If proposition sets up an unfair debate, opposition may choose to
 - broaden the debate,
 - explicitly challenge the definition, but still provide even if arguments, or
 - explicitly challenge the definition and debate only on those grounds
- If Opposition team explicitly challenges the definition, they have to do so in their first speech, explain why the definition is illegitimate, and provide an alternative reasonable definition
- Even in cases of bad definitions, there is no obligation on Opposition to challenge - they are allowed to chose to proceed with the faulty definition.
- If you are persuaded that a definitional challenge is valid, this should reflect on your assessment of Proposition's strategy (their understanding of the debate);
- Debates are not automatically won or lost by definitional challenges

TYPES OF MOTIONS: PRINCIPLE/VALUE JUDGEMENT

This House Believes That (THBT)

This type of motion does not require a policy set up; however, it is helpful when teams illustrate how they envision this new world to look like.

- *This House believes that parents should have access to their children's social media accounts*
- *This House believes that schools should permanently expel bullies*

This House believes that X does more harm than good

'THBT Homeschooling does more harm than good', Prop teams do not need to propose a policy of how they will ban homeschooling. Instead, this motion expects Prop to make a comparison of why they think homeschool has more cons than pros. Opp should respond by explaining why they believe the opposite, which is homeschooling has more pros than cons.

This House believes that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has done more harm than good: In this debate, the BRI is not being scrapped; debaters are expected to recognize that it has both benefits and harms, and then argue about whether it is more beneficial or harmful on balance, which will often require a comparison to a world without the BRI.

TYPES OF MOTIONS: PRINCIPLE/VALUE JUDGEMENT

- **This House supports/opposes X -**

This House opposes the Belt & Road Initiative: In this debate, the BRI is not being scrapped; the debate is about whether we have reasons to support or oppose the BRI. Teams should define and characterise the subject that is being supported or opposed.

- **This House regrets X –**

This House regrets the Belt and Road Initiative: This is a retrospective debate. Basically, Proposition must say that the world without this X will have been better off. Both teams need to provide a realistic depiction of **what a world without X might look like**.

- They may or may not agree on this counter-factual world. What would have existed instead of the BRI? Why is that better than the BRI? Proposition may say without the BRI, alternatives to Western financial institutions would still have arisen, but they would not have been solely controlled by China and explain why those were better. Opposition may accept this and argue that China is a more sustainable lender, or they may suggest a different 'counter-factual', which is that the only option would have been Western lending institutions, which would have been more predatory.

TYPES OF MOTIONS: PRINCIPLE/VALUE JUDGEMENT

This House prefers X to Y –

This House prefers benevolent dictatorships to weak democracies: In this debate, the teams are comparing two political systems. No one is proposing an action. It is an assessment debate that evaluates which system is better overall.

This House prefers a world where X (or prefers a world where X happens rather than Y) –

THP a world where all sports clubs were owned by their communities through non-profit trusts. In this debate, Proposition should describe and define what this world looks like, but they do not need to defend how we arrive at this world.

If it were worded as *THW turn all sports clubs into non-profits*, proposition teams may propose a model for how they'd compensate existing owners, and how the non-profits would make decisions.

The comparative is the broad status quo/or one with some plausible changes, not another imaginary world. Opposition cannot say that they too, prefer a world in which communities own sports clubs, but that these communities have an equal capacity to fund them. In *TH prefers a world in which people have superpowers*, Opposition has to defend a world where no people have superpowers, not a 'world where only good people have superpowers.

TYPES OF MOTIONS: POLICY

This House Would (THW)...

In motions that call for the implementation of an action/policy/change, teams may use 'models' or 'policies' to explain how they want to carry out that action.

This House would ban smoking: If Proposition teams do so, the debate is then between the action in the way Proposition implements it and Opposition's stance. Here, that would translate into banning smoking with the punishment Proposition suggests, rather than any punishment.

THW legalize all recreational drugs: the Proposition team in this debate would be proposing a new law and has the authority of the literal government. Prop teams should explain in their speech how they envision this new law and why it is something necessary/beneficial.

This type of motion presumes that the Prop team has the authority to implement such policies.

However, this is not to say that they automatically can say their policy is perfect. It is legitimate for the Opp team to question the efficacy of the Gov's policy and if this will do any good for the public. Opposition teams should work to prove the opposite, that such a law is not only unnecessary but that it will create more harms.

TYPES OF MOTIONS: ACTOR

This House, as X, ... (actor motion)

This means that the debate happens from the specific perspective of the actor in the motion. All arguments must be linked to why actor X would care to do action Y.

This does not mean that actor X is always selfish and that principled arguments cannot be made in this debate. Instead, debaters have to go the extra mile in explaining why actor X would hold on to such principles or point of views.

TH, as a parent, would not send their children to a private school.

Debate speaks from the perspective of the parent, not from the perspective of broader society.

THBT X Should is **not** an actor Motion: ***THBT parents should not send their children to private schools*** (can still claim that the interest of the parent are prioritized, but this time a neutral observer)

- *TH, as the US, would invade Myanmar vs THW invade Myanmar*

PROPOSITION FIAT

Once you read a motion, the debate rests on the assumption that the action specified in the motion can be taken – this is ‘Proposition fiat’

THW reserve a third of the seats for women in parliament

x ‘Male parliamentarians will not let this bill in parliament pass’ - This is a criticism that explains why this will be a hard policy to pass, but does not make a comment on the policy’s merits or demerits. It is not a legitimate opposition line.

The criticisms around the harms and legitimacy of the policy itself are legitimate opposition responses:

- The policy is unfair and illegitimate
- The women who are elected will not represent women’s causes adequately
- The women elected will not be seen as credible. However, they must assume that the motion will happen

OPPOSITION STRATEGY

- **Opposition can propose a counter-model too**, and if they do, the motion becomes Proposition model v. Opposition model. **Opposition is NOT required to have a counter-model.**

This House would ban smoking: In this debate, Opposition can regulate access to smoking, tax cigarettes and even restrict it to smoking zones. In this case, the debate is between this model, and Proposition's model.

- **Some motions make what opposition has to implement clear in the motion itself:**

THW require non-violent criminals to perform community service rather than go to prison. Here opposition cannot choose to model it only as house arrest, or fines.

- A motion being phrased in a different way to "This House would..." can also be an action motion. For example:

TH supports the 'right to secede': It is useful for Proposition to identify the manner by which secession will happen (what criteria makes a territory eligible, and the process that will be followed, such as conducting a referendum)

THBT the US should increase its military presence in Asia: It is useful for Proposition to explain what they mean by military presence and in which specific locations