



The Debater's Guide to the 2012 Schools' Competition



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Welcome and congratulations on deciding to participate in debating this year. This brief guide will outline some key things you need to be aware of as a participant in this year's competition.

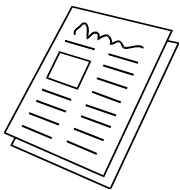
Where to find topics, sides and times

Information such as topics, sides and debate times are available from the Debating SA website at www.debating.com.au. Type your team name in the yellow box on the main page to get information relevant to your team.



'Like' us on Facebook (facebook.com/debating.com.au) or 'follow us' on Twitter (@debating_sa) to stay up to date with the latest information.

The Debating SA Newsletter



A newsletter is distributed each round which contains helpful information on how to improve your debating skills, team rankings and important upcoming events. Be sure to collect a copy from the Committee Desk each round, or you can view it on the website.

Crazy Hair Round and Coaching Mornings

Crazy Hair Round. This will be held in **Round 3** for all divisions. Wear your hair in a crazy or creative style to your debate. Enter the Crazy Hair Competition at the Committee Desk for \$2 for the chance to win a gift voucher and chocolates. Winners will be announced in the Round 4 Newsletter.



Coaching Mornings - \$5 per person per session. If you need extra help with your arguments or would like some feedback on your speech, attend one of the coaching mornings at Pembroke Senior School, 18 Holden Street, KENSINGTON PARK SA 5068 on the following dates:

Sat 28 Apr 2012, 10:30am to 12:00pm
Sat 12 May 2012, 10:30am to 12:00pm
Sat 2 Jun 2012, 10:30am to 12:00pm
Sat 21 Jul 2012, 10:30am to 12:00pm
Sat 4 Aug 2012, 10:30am to 12:00pm

Registration is essential and can be done via the website www.debating.com.au or contact Mr James Tran (0406 982 012).



Debating Etiquette

Remember to **introduce yourself** to your opposition, the Chairman and the Adjudicator. **Shake hands** with your opposition at the end of the debate.

It's also important that you are courteous to your opposition and your adjudicator. Don't be disruptive to your opposition by talking during their speeches.

Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Adjudicators are happy to explain their decision but it is poor sportsmanship to argue with the adjudicator over the result.

What should I bring to a debate?

You should bring your speech notes on cue cards no larger than 3 x 5 inches, a pen and a drink if you wish. Drinking water will be provided for Secondary debates.

Chairman and Timekeeper Responsibilities

Your team is responsible for bringing a **Chairman** if you're an Affirmative Team or a **Timekeeper** if you're a Negative Team.

The **Chairman** is responsible for **collecting and filling out** forms and collecting a certificate from the Committee Desk for the adjudicator. The chairman controls the debate and is responsible for ensuring that the audience is quiet. S/he also introduces each of the speakers.

The **Timekeeper** is responsible for ensuring all debaters have access to water. A jug, cups and a bell and stopwatch are supplied and may need to be collected from the Committee Desk if not available in the room already. The timekeeper times each of the speeches and records the times, which are given to the adjudicator after the Third Negative Speaker's speech.

Documents you should read

You should become familiar with the *Standard Operating Procedures* (see our website www.debating.sa.com.au) and *The Official Debating Manual*. You can purchase your own copy of *The Official Debating Manual* at debating nights for \$15 or have it posted to you for \$17.

Some Key Points on Speeches

Begin your speech with "Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen" or "Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen" depending upon the gender of the Chairman. "Chairperson" **should not** be used.

You **should not** use a team line in your debate. You **may** say "thank you" at the end of your speech.



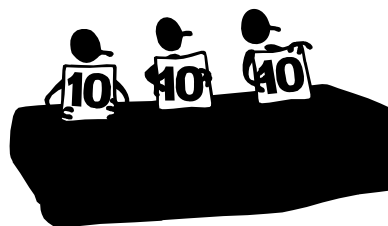
Team Rankings

Team rankings will be made available at www.debatingsa.com.au/rankings by the Monday following a debate and in the roundly newsletter.

Teams are ranked first according to win/loss points then by team scores.

Win/Loss Points are assigned to teams as follows:

Official Team win	4 points
Official Team loss	
- against Official Team	3 points
- against Unofficial Team	4 points
Unofficial Team win	2 points
Unofficial Team loss	1 point
Forfeit	0 points



A **team score** is the average of the three speakers' scores in a debate.

Finals and Presentations



Finals will be held for all divisions except Primary School. The top-eight ranked teams at the end of the Preliminary Rounds will be eligible to participate in the Finals Series held in September.

The Grand Finals will be held in The House of Assembly Chamber at Parliament House. A Presentation Ceremony will be held for the winners and runners up of each division.

Debater of the Year Awards

The top debaters in each division according to individual scores are recognised in the Debater of the Year Awards.

As a debater you will need to participate in at least 3 debates to be eligible for these awards (2 debates if you are a Senior or Open debater).

The full list of criteria for these awards can be viewed in the *Standard Operating Procedures* available on the website www.debatingsa.com.au.

Anything else? We're here to help!

If you need help or information about anything debating related please feel free to contact Mr James Tran on 0406 982 012 or email enquiries@debatingsa.com.au.