

The AUE Debate Tournament Format

- ⦿ Speakers compete in a 2-v-2 format, with (2) two speakers on the Government team & two (2) on the Opposition team.
- ⦿ The **AUE Tournament is a motions tournament**. Motion release: prepared & impromptu. **Case-building time: 30 minutes for impromptu rounds & 10 minutes for the prepared ones.**
- ⦿ Printed materials are the only source of reference allowed; **no electronics, no coaches.**
- ⦿ Government team does case-building inside the room- Opposition team outside the room.
- ⦿ A team of adjudicators determines the winning team in a debate.
- ⦿ Two open adjudication rounds & two closed rounds (results are not announced)
- ⦿ In open adjudication rounds: Feedback duration - no more than 7 min.

American Parliamentary Format of Debating

- ⦿ Debating is a clash of arguments b/w the Government (Affirmative/Proposition team & the Opposition (Negative) team. The 1st affirms the motion, whereas the 2nd opposes it.
- ⦿ Motion is a topic each team should contextualize.
- ⦿ The objective of debating is to argue on policies or propositions of thought; urgent or not, good or bad, effective or not effective, useful or useless, etc.
- ⦿ The AUE Debate and Public Speaking tournament will aim to find the best team and speakers in the English track.

The Teams

Government

The Prime Minister (PM)

&

Member of the Opposition (MO).

Opposition

The Leader of the Opposition (LO)

&

Member of Government (MG)

Speakers' Order



20 seconds grace period for each speech

“C”: “Constructive” & “R”: “Rebuttal.”

Speakers' Duties

1. **Prime Minister's Constructive (6 minutes & a 20 sec. grace period)**
 1. State a clear case statement that does not violate any debate rules.
 2. Offer any further explanation or background for the case.
 3. Present a case consisting of arguments that support the case statement.
2. **Member of Government's Constructive (7 min. & a 20sec. grace period)**
 1. Introduce any remaining Government material.
 2. Respond to the LO's attacks.
 3. Reconstruct the Government's case.
1. **Leader of Opposition's Constructive (7 min. & a 20-sec. grace period)**
 1. State any important objections to the case.
 2. Construct the Opposition's (3) independent arguments.
 3. Attack the government's case.
 4. **Member of Opposition's Constructive (7 min. & a 20-sec. grace period)**
 5. Introduce any new Opposition arguments.
 6. Respond to the MG.
 7. Respond to any Gov. arguments that have not been responded to.

Rebuttals

1. **Leader of Opposition's Rebuttal (3 min. & a 20 sec. grace period)**
 1. Crystallize the round into clear Opposition voting issues.
 2. Preempt any problems due to lack of clarity or objections the Opposition has made to the case.
 3. No new arguments may be made, but new examples are welcome.
2. **Prime Minister's Rebuttal (4 min. & a 20 sec. grace period)**
 1. Respond to any new MO arguments.
 2. Crystallize the round into clear Government voting issues.
 3. No new arguments may be made, but new examples are welcome.

Total: 34 min. +2 min. grace period

New Arguments

New arguments can be made at any time during the first four speeches.

New arguments cannot be made during rebuttals, the last two speeches of the round.

However, The Prime Minister can respond to new opposition arguments made during the MO.

So, the PMR may contain new responses but not new arguments.

Types of Motions

Closed motions - specific in scope while still leaving room for interpretation, e.g., This House would make Germany compensate victims of Nazi atrocities.

Semi-closed motions - also broad in scope, e.g., This House would pay compensation to victims of abuse.

Value-judgment motions - defending a specific value, good or bad: e.g., This House believes that the Internet is dangerous.

Policy debates - introducing a specific action plan into Social Quotient (SQ), e.g., TH supports the concept of a "Green Economy."

Motions can be time-space (set in a specific time or space under those conditions) and/or involve actor analysis (analyzing what a specific person or entity should do).

Popular topics are the environment, science, economics, international relations, philosophy, social justice, media, & art.

POINTS OF INFORMATION (POI)

A POI is a question or statement directed to the speaker holding the floor by an opposing team member.

To offer a POI, the debater should rise & indicate that he/she wishes to offer a point by saying "Point of information" or "Information" or "On that very point."

The speaker has absolute discretion over whether or not to accept a POI; this should be indicated within 10 or 15 seconds after the other debater rises.

If the POI is refused, the individual should sit down. If the POI is accepted, it must be no more than 15 seconds & will count against the time of the speaker holding the floor.

POIs may be offered b/w the 1st & last minutes of the four constructive speeches but are prohibited during rebuttals.

POIs can help a debater's speaker points, & debaters are encouraged to accept & ask POIs

Recommended: each speaker accepts 2 POIs.

Adjudication Criteria

Presentation skills (manner, method, matter)

Argumentation skills (case structure, effective refutation, constructive analysis)

Team-working (functional responsibilities, questions, points)

Content (facts, examples, analogies)

The primary judging criterion for parliamentary debate is **persuasiveness**.

Argumentation and analysis: the backbone of parliamentary debate.

A team that presents coherent, logical analysis will fare better than one that relies (solely) on assertion or emotionalism.

Arguments should be clear and convincing, along with providing a clash with the other team's values.

Content-Refutation-Organization-Style & Rhetoric-Wit-POIs-Teamwork

Debate Glossary

Debate Motion: The topic debated

THW (This House would...)

THB (This House believes)

THR (This House regrets)

Parliament: the audience (the House)

Timekeeper: monitors the time limits throughout the debate round & does the appropriate time signals.

Judge panel: impartial, impersonal

The speaker: head of the judging panel, arbiter of the rules, invites debaters for their speeches, decides upon POIs (& points of order in future tournaments)