

Participant Guidebook: Sustainability and SDGs Debate Competition

Welcome to the Debate Competition!

Congratulations on joining this exciting journey to explore critical global issues related to sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This guidebook provides all the information you need to excel in the competition. Read it thoroughly, and feel free to reach out with any questions.

1. Competition Overview

Objective

The debate competition aims to:

- Promote awareness of sustainability and the SDGs.
- Enhance research, critical thinking, and public speaking skills.
- Encourage participants to propose innovative solutions to global challenges.

Debate Format

- **Style:** Modified Oxford or Asian Parliamentary
 - **Teams:** Two teams per debate (Proposition and Opposition)
 - **Speakers per team:** 3
 - **Speech duration:** 5–7 minutes per speaker
 - **Rounds:** As per number of participants registered
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2. Important Dates

- **Registration Deadline:** 27 Jan 2025
 - **Debate competition Date:** 29 Jan 2025
 - 2:00 pm at TV room, AITCC
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3. Debate Topic

"Can Technology Alone Solve the Global Climate Crisis?"

This topic aligns with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). It encourages discussion on the role of technological innovation versus behavioral and systemic changes in addressing climate change.

4. Debate Rules and Guidelines

General Rules

- 1. Each speaker must adhere to the allocated time limit.
- 2. Teams must remain respectful and professional throughout the competition.
- 3. Rebuttals should address opposing arguments without personal attacks.

Speaking Order

- 1. **Speaker 1 (Proposition):** Introduces the topic and presents the team’s main arguments.
 - 2. **Speaker 1 (Opposition):** Responds to the proposition and presents opposing arguments.
 - 3. **Speaker 2 (Proposition):** Expands on arguments with evidence.
 - 4. **Speaker 2 (Opposition):** Expands on opposing arguments with evidence.
 - 5. **Speaker 3 (Proposition):** Rebuttals and reinforces the team’s stance.
 - 6. **Speaker 3 (Opposition):** Rebuttals and summarizes the opposition’s case.
 - 7. **Closing Statements:** Both teams present a 2-minute summary.
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5. Judging Criteria

Criterion	Weightage	Details
Content and Relevance	40%	Quality of arguments, alignment with SDGs, use of evidence, and examples.

Delivery and Clarity	30%	Speaker confidence, tone, articulation, and audience engagement.
Strategy and Structure	20%	Logical flow, teamwork, ability to rebut arguments, and organization.
Time Management	10%	Effective use of time and adherence to the allocated limits.

1. Content and Relevance (40%)

- **Quality of Arguments:** Are the arguments logical, well-developed, and persuasive? Do they address the core issue of the topic?
 - **Evidence and Examples:** Are the arguments supported by relevant data, real-world examples, and credible sources?
 - **Relevance to SDGs:** Do the arguments effectively align with and reflect the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals?
 - **Originality and Creativity:** Are the arguments innovative or do they offer a fresh perspective on the topic?
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2. Delivery and Clarity (30%)

- **Confidence:** Does the speaker exhibit confidence and poise?
 - **Articulation and Clarity:** Are the points expressed in a clear, concise, and articulate manner?
 - **Engagement:** Does the speaker maintain eye contact, connect with the audience, and use effective gestures?
 - **Tone and Expression:** Is the tone appropriate, varied, and engaging?
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3. Strategy and Structure (20%)

- **Organization:** Is the speech structured logically, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion?
- **Team Coordination:** Does the team present a unified argument, dividing roles and responsibilities effectively?

- **Rebuttals:** Are counterarguments addressed effectively, dismantling the opposing team's points?
 - **Focus on Key Issues:** Does the team prioritize critical aspects of the debate topic?
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4. Time Management (10%)

- **Adherence to Time Limits:** Does the speaker stay within the allocated time without rushing or exceeding the limit?
 - **Effective Use of Time:** Does the speaker use their time efficiently to present a complete and coherent argument?
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Scoring Approach

- Each judge will score teams on the above criteria using a scale (e.g., 1–10) for each category.
 - Scores from all judges will be averaged to determine the team's final score for each round.
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6. Preparing for the Debate

Research Tips

1. **Understand the SDGs:** Familiarize yourself with the 17 SDGs and their targets.
2. **Analyze the Topic:** Break down the topic into key issues and subtopics.
3. **Use reliable sources:** Gather data from credible reports, articles, and case studies.
4. **Prepare Rebuttals:** anticipate opposing arguments and plan counterpoints.

Practice Sessions

- Conduct mock debates with your team.
 - Time each speech and seek feedback from peers or mentors.
 - Focus on improving clarity, confidence, and content delivery.
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7. On the Debate Day

Checklist

- Arrive at the venue 30 minutes early.
- Bring your notes, cue cards, and water.
- Dress in professional or business casual attire.

During the Debate

1. Stay calm and confident.
 2. Listen actively to opposing arguments.
 3. Manage your time effectively.
 4. Use clear and persuasive language.
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8. Awards and Recognition

Categories

1. **Winning Team:** 3000 THB and certificates.
 2. **Best Speaker:** 500 THB awarded to the top individual performer.
 3. **Best Rebuttal:** 500 THB for the speaker with the strongest counter-arguments.
 4. **Participation Certificates:** For all participants.
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9. Post-Competition Opportunities

- Join follow-up workshops on public speaking and SDG action plans.
 - Network with judges, mentors, and participants to explore collaborations.
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10. Contact Information

For any queries, feel free to contact us:

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