

TAYLOR'S
COLLEGE



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THE 3rd TAYLOR'S INTER-COLLEGE DEBATE TOURNAMENT 2011

Date: 6th and 7th August 2011

Time: 9am - 4pm

Venue: Taylor's College Subang Jaya

Format: British Parliamentary Style

Team: 3 participants (two debaters and one reserve)

Deadline:

- **Registration:** by th **July** (RM20 penalty will be imposed for teams registering past this deadline)
- **Payment:** must be made **before** th **July** (same penalty imposed)

Age limit: Participants who were born from **1990 – 1993** are only eligible.

(participants will be requested to produce their IC on the registration day, please note that the age limit is now using the year that you are born, if your birthday ends with 1990 – 1993, you are eligible to join)

Requirement: 1. Identification Card (IC)
2. Each team **must** send at least ONE adjudicator



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GENERAL RULES

1. All students are solely responsible for your personal property and valuables.
2. All students will be financially held responsible for any damages or stains caused to any property of Taylor's College Subang Jaya.
3. Smoking is not permitted anywhere around the buildings of the college or within 5 meters of the college grounds boundaries.
4. Consumption of alcohol by person under the age of 18 is forbidden by law and will not be tolerated.
5. Consumption of alcohol by person over the age of 18 is not permitted in public areas.
6. Please ensure that you are on time for all the debate rounds you are scheduled to attend.
7. Please be reminded that debate rounds will continue without you if you are late.
8. Noise should be kept at a minimum. Please respect other participants who are debating as well.
9. All students will respect the rights and privileges of others and refrain from discrimination or harassment and respect property during their stay.

FORMAT FOR BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY STYLE DEBATE

1. The debate will consist of four teams of two debaters, a chairperson (known as the "Speaker of the House" or "Mister/Madame Speaker") and an adjudicator or panel of adjudicators.
2. In BP, there are 4 teams in each round. Two teams represent the Government, and two teams represent the Opposition. The Government supports the resolution, and the Opposition opposes the resolution. The teams are also divided into the Opening and Closing halves of the debate. The teams are organized like this in the room:

Opening Government (OG)	Opening Opposition (OO)
Closing Government (CG)	Closing Opposition (CO)

There are two speakers on each team. Each speaker has a title. The titles are:

OG: Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister

CG: Member of the Government, Government Whip

OO: Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition

CO: Member of the Opposition, Opposition Whip



3. Members will speak in the following order:
 1. Prime Minister - **First Speaker, OG**
 2. Leader of the Opposition - **First Speaker, OO**
 3. Deputy Prime Minister - **Second Speaker, OG**
 4. Deputy Leader of the Opposition - **Second Speaker, OO**
 5. Member of the Government - **First Speaker, CG**
 6. Member of the Opposition - **First Speaker, CO**
 7. Government Whip - **Second Speaker, CG**
 8. Opposition Whip - **Second Speaker, CO**

4. Each debater has 7 minutes to speak. The first and last minutes are protected time. This means that no POIs may be offered during this time. The Speaker will give a signal at the end and the beginning of protected time, at the seven-minute mark, and at the end of grace.

ROLES OF TEAMS AND SPEAKERS

In order for a round to be able to develop properly, the teams participating in the round must fulfill certain criteria. When they succeed they will have fulfilled their role and they will be developing the debate. If they fail then the debate will suffer in quality because of it, and this will absolutely be considered in the adjudication.

Roles of the Teams (Overview)

1. Opening Government:

- Defines the terms of the debate
- Opens the case for the Government
- Opposes the case of the Opening Opposition when it is presented

2. Opening Opposition:

- Opposes the case of the Opening Government
- Opens the case for the Opposition

3. Closing Government:

- Extends the Government case
- Opposes the cases of the Opening and Closing Opposition teams
- Summarizes the debate

4. Closing Opposition:

- Extends the Opposition case
- Opposes the cases of the Opening and Closing Opposition teams
- Summarizes the debate

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Roles of the Speakers (Overview)

1. Prime Minister (Opening Government):

- Defines the resolution
 - Introduces the Government case
2. **Leader of the Opposition (Opening Opposition):**
 - Rebuts what PM said
 - Introduces Opening Opposition case
 - If there's going to be a definitional challenge, the LO must mention it in their speech, otherwise all the other teams in the round must accept the original definition.
 3. **Deputy Prime Minister (Opening Government):**
 - Rebuts what LO said
 - Continues Opening Government case
 4. **Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Opening Opposition):**
 - Rebuts what DPM said
 - Continues Opening Opposition case
 5. **Member of the Government (Closing Government):**
 - Extends the Government case
 - Rebuts what DLO said
 6. **Member of the Opposition (Closing Opposition):**
 - Extends the Opposition case
 - Rebuts what MG said
 7. **Government Whip (Closing Government):**
 - May introduce new contentions, but it's not generally recommended
 - Rebuts what the MO said
 - Summarizes the debate
 8. **Opposition Whip (Closing Government):**
 - Absolutely no new contentions may be introduced, but new evidence in support of existing contentions may be introduced
 - Rebuts what the GW said
 - Summarizes the debate

Point of Information (POIs)

1. Give two POIs, and take two POIs
2. POIs should be brief, simple and clear.
3. A POI is should not exceed more than 15 seconds. If it does, the speaker who had

- accepted the POI has the right to deny answering it.
4. POIs shouldn't be given for the sole purpose of destroying the other team's case. POIs should build your case up as well.
 5. Let people finish their question before you wave them down, but if they start to make a speech, or refuse to sit down, start waving them down immediately. If they still won't sit down then the speaker will deal with them.
 6. To ask a POI, a member should stand. The member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words to this effect. The person who is speaking may allow the offeror to make the point of information or may decline to take the point of information.
 7. Finish your sentence before you accept a question. It is very easy to forget where you were if you allow someone to interrupt you.

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Definitional Challenges (DEF)

1. Definitional challenges are **exceedingly rare**.
2. The only time you *should* object to the definition is if it is a truism or tautology.
3. The only speaker who can object to the OG definition is the LO. **If the LO doesn't**

object, no one else can.

4. If the LO objects to the definition then they must substitute their own.
5. The remaining debaters then have to decide which definition to use.
6. If the remaining debaters use the LOs definition then the debate can continue on like normal.
7. If there is still disagreement about the definition then the closing teams must decide which definition to support, or whether to substitute their own.
8. This is why it is usually an exceptionally bad idea to challenge a definition that isn't a truism or tautology. It's very messy.

Knifing

1. Knifing is when a closing team, or even a partner on the same team, blatantly disagrees with a fundamental part of the substantive case that they're supposed to be supporting. (Effectively knifing someone in the back).
2. In the vast majority of situations, you should not knife your opening team. It will be a negative factor for you in the adjudication as supporting your opening team is a fundamental part of your role.
3. However, occasionally your opening team will be so shrill and off the mark that you'll have to basically ignore what they said in order to salvage your side of the round. You may have to twist what they said in order to make sense of their case. Be careful with this strategy. You probably won't take a first, but you may be able to salvage a point or two out of the round.



Ground Rules for British Parliamentary Style Debate

1. No amendment to the motion is permitted. You must debate the motion as presented and

interpret it as best you can. You cannot define a motion in a Place/Time Specific sense (i.e. you cannot set the debate in Dublin 1916 and therefore attempt to limit the scope of the debate and information which the other teams can use)

2. **Never insult another debater's race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. Anything offensive will be heavily penalized.**
3. Members are permitted to use written material during preparation and during the debate.
4. Printed material includes books, journals, newspapers and other similar materials, and the use of electronic equipment are prohibited during preparation in the debate.
5. Squirreling (choosing a definition which does not have a reasonable link to the motion and is obviously pre-prepared) is prohibited.
6. Specialized knowledge should not be used to unfairly define a motion.
7. The Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition if it violates the rules.
8. The Leader of the Opposition should clearly state that he or she is challenging the definition. The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.
9. Speeches will be seven minutes in duration (this should be signalled by two strikes of the bell).
10. Speakers exceeding this may be penalized but should never be substantially less than this. In general you should speak for at least 6:45 and generally no more than 7:20-7:30.
11. Points of Information may be asked between the end of the first minute and the 6 minute mark of the speech.
12. Members should attempt to answer at least two points of information during their speech. Members should also offer points of information.
13. Rebuttal is vital in any competitive speech. Any argument left unchallenged is allowed to stand.

