

Third edition

Handbook for Competitive Debating: Asian Parliamentary Format



Jogja Debating Forum Team

2014



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Team of Authors:

Fajri Matahati Muhammadin, Vitri Sekarsari, Mohammad Fikri Pido, Keinesasih Hapsari Puteri, Rangga Dian Fadillah, Karlina Denistia, Muhammad Rifky Wicaksono, Ibrahim Hanif, Thalita Hindarto, Dwi Supriono, Marsa Harisa

Head of Editorial Team: Walissa Tanaya Pramanasari

Editorial Team: Aura Fadzila, Muhammad Afri, Yustia Rahma

Layout & Design: Syakur Rahman

First Edition. 2010
Second Edition. 2012
Third Edition. 2014

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FOREWORDS

FOUNDER OF JOGJA DEBATING FORUM

Debating is about change. Sometimes we are constantly engaged in a struggle to make our lives, our community (e.g. JDF), our country, our world, and our future a better one. We should never be satisfied with the way things are now - surely there is something in our lives that could be improved, could be changed and could be fun.

People debate for a number of reasons: to convince other people that his/her opinion is better, to listen to what other people think of an issue, to find which solution is the best for a problem; and I believe this handbook could be a good bridge for you to learn about debating.

This second edition provides you more insightful and updated content & issues, which you can always rely on to find inspiration and reference of analytical-critical thinking and public speaking skills to the fullest; skills which are very useful in everyday life.

In the end, don't forget to always have fun. That is the essence of Jogja Debating Forum. Happy debating!

Irfansyah Kurnia Putra
JDF-er for life

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PRESIDENT OF JOGJA DEBATING FORUM (2013-2014)

"People's experiences, knowledge, and communication behaviors shape an individual's standpoint – stance upon a certain issue." This is what the Standpoint Theory claims. It should not be a surprise then if an exact same case is being viewed differently by different individuals. It is also naive to say that none of those views are opposing one another. Indeed, our thoughts and opinions shall be expressed, as it is one of the very things that makes us human. However, the matter of how those clashing ideas should be expressed without triggering fights, chaos, or disintegration is still sometimes neglected by many of us.

We agree to disagree; therefore, we digest more through our argumentations to gain better understanding. That is what parliamentary debating provides – a platform to criticize instead of taking things for granted; to convey our opinion based on a set of facts and logic, not a rash prejudice; and to rebut and refute the ideas, not the persons. This platform has an important role for people to harness their critical thinking ability, express their ideas, and to broaden their perspectives.

Jogja Debating Forum shares this view. This forum is an association of debaters across Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta coming from various ages, fields of study, and both level of study and debating experience, banded together for the purpose of parliamentary debating development.

Knowledge is more fruitful when shared. Under this spirit, Jogja Debating Forum has been devoting on parliamentary debating proliferation – especially in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, ever since it was founded in 2004. Debate seminar, coaching, adjudicator's accreditation, competition, adjudication, good relations with local education department; we've been doing the best we can do to serve our mission, and this handbook isn't an exception.

With our limited capacity to reach all schools and universities in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta – even expanding our scope to other provinces and to always be available 24/7, we are devoting this book to be accessible by any individual, regardless of time and place, who wishes to learn more about parliamentary debating.

Last but not least, I'd like to personally deliver my deepest gratitude to the authors, who have kindly shared and poured their knowledge into this book; and to each of you for your thirst for knowledge, as well as your trust to this book as one of the sources.

This book is for you.

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There are so many people who have contributed in creating and finishing the 3rd edition of the JDF Handbook. Firstly, I'd like to thank to authors who have successfully authored the debate manual namely the JDF Handbook and has revised it twice since the 1st edition was issued. Nothing is perfect, but we know the authors are always trying their best to make the handbook look perfect. They have dedicated countless effort, energy, thought, time, and even money, for just making the handbook as best as possible.

Secondly, I'd like to also thank to the former cabinet of JDF which was led by Ms. RR. Gratsia Kancanamaya, or we usually call her Aya. The 3rd Edition JDF Handbook was supposed to be created and published under her cabinet, but unfortunately the book has yet to be completed until after the end of the presidency. That's why we are really grateful that this book finally can be finished in this new JDF cabinet.

Nevertheless, JDF as a team cannot stand alone, we need other people, such as debaters, teachers or other individuals, to make use of this book for debating purposes. We are really glad knowing these people who come from institutions inside and outside Yogyakarta still give their trust to use the JDF Handbook as their debating guidance until this time. Therefore these people must receive our highest appreciation.

Finally we do hope this book can be very useful for all people to understand the fundamental concepts of a debate. We don't guarantee you to become a great debater after reading this handbook, but at least we hope you will more easily understand about all basic techniques in debate provided in this newest edition. In the end, I just want to say happy reading and happy debating.

-Tika Destiratri Setiawan-

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ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORS OF THE THIRD EDITION

It has been a delight to witness that there has been such overwhelming positive feedback from the users of the second edition of this book. Users from Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta as well as from other regions such as East Java and Batam have expressed their interest to this book, and provided positive feedback for it. That is why I have recalled the team of authors (with a few new members), and established an editorial team, to construct a third edition.

At the start, Jogja Debating Forum (JDF) did not really intend to make a special handbook. As one could easily read in the second edition, this book was initially made as a curriculum for a training-competition (*trainpetition*) that we held in 2010. The initial authors were a special team which consisted of Vitri Sekarsari, Karlina Denistia, Widya Adhi Nugroho, Rangga Dian Fadillah, Mohammad Fikri Pido, M. Rifky Wicaksono, Keinesasih Hapsari, and myself as head of authors. The president at the time, Meganusa, decided to launch that curriculum as JDF's own debating handbook, which proved to be a very good decision.

The first edition was actually quite a mess in terms of formatting. Therefore, we issued a second edition with minor substantive revisions (and Ibrahim Hanif joining the author team) but a major layout and design making (perhaps it might do better justice to just make that second edition the first, and this edition to be the second one instead, but then that will serve as too much trouble). Hopefully, you will find that this third edition will include quite a number of very significant substantive revisions in many of its chapters.

After the second edition was launched, there were many new ideas emerging from our members. These new ideas would come in form of new demands in training necessities, alternate approaches to conduct trainings, new methods of structuring debates, as well as new approaches to understanding argument construction. I thought that such new ideas must be incorporated into the debate handbook, so that these new developments can be enjoyed by as many as possible.

I really hope, though, that this book is not misused. By misusing, I do not mean anything that involves farm animals and domestic violence. I have witnessed many teams that view debating as something not in line with JDF's vision. They see debate just to get additional certificates, or they see debate solely as a competition to win from, and so many more. It is never wrong to believe or perceive in any way you want, really. You can believe whatever you like. However, I am an educator, and certainly it is not wrong either for me to have my hopes high.

To begin with, debating is an important skill for our life. It makes us aware of national and international issues, helps us make better decisions with sharper analysis to consider our options, and the public speaking really does help. But then, JDF sees debate as something more than that. JDF has always seen debate as fun! We know no such thing as a spelling bee-er, scrabble-er, but we do know debaters.

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But I have not mentioned the 'misuse' yet. Now, books are always a very essential part of education. They could represent a vast amount of knowledge by many people, all at once, in one simple item, easily accessed in your laptop or on your shelf. In individual assignments, books (both softcopy and hardcopy) are the first resources from which to seek information. However, do not ever keep the information seeking at the individual level only. It is essential and imperative to gather and learn together.

Debate is not just about reading materials, and practicing with your own debating community over and over again will not provide the maximum quality of training. Always diversify your training partners by visiting other institutions and holding joint-practices (especially if you have a regional debating community like JDF). By that, you will be more prepared to face a variety of types of people and styles of arguing. Perhaps also, you can discuss and share the ways you understand this book or even criticize it. You will never know what new things that you can learn from each other.

Not only you will get maximum substantial benefits, but also you could achieve better fun! There is nothing more fun than involving more people with the same interest and doing all the wacky stuff during the debate practices.

That is why this book was made, only as a guidebook, which would hopefully contribute positively to your debate trainings to give positive effects to your life. Then, from this book, it is your choice to make good use of its contents. Later on, please provide feedback also via the author/s or via JDF management.

I am perhaps the leader of the author team. But then, what I did was insignificant if not for the splendid cooperation of the other authors. At this opportunity, I would call for a round of applause for my team: Vitri Sekarsari, Karlina Denistia, Rangga Dian Fadillah, Mohammad Fikri Pido, M. Rifky Wicaksono, Keinesasih Hapsari, Ibrahim Hanif, and an extra round of applause for the new members of our author team: Marsa Harisa, Dwi Supriono, and Thalita Hindarto! Then I would also call for another round of applause for the head of our editorial team, Walissa Tanaya, and her team: Aura Fadzila, Muhammad Afri, and Yustia Rahma.

The greatest round of applause, however, goes to you. You, you, and you, who have stirred up the atmosphere from which the demand for this book emerged in the first place, and such enthusiasm that made it possible for this book to continue its editions up to three.

I hope you enjoy this book and find some use in it.

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