

DEBATE SEMINAR

NUDC KOPERTIS 3 2018

ASTRI – BOBY – JANE

The British Parliamentary System

- Four teams representing two sides: Government and Opposition.
- The Government proposes the motion, the Opposition opposes the motion.
- There are two teams (consisting two speakers each) in each side: Opening and Closing.
- Case-building/preparation time is fifteen minutes.
- Seven minutes substantive speeches (POIs between the first and sixth minute).

GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister

Member of Government

Government Whip

OPPOSITION

Leader of Opposition

Deputy Leader of
Opposition

Member of Opposition

Opposition Whip

What's what in BP

- You will compete with not only one team, but three teams. Your benchmate (that is, the other team in your side) is also a rival.

Persuasiveness

- The key element in debate is **Persuasiveness**
 - Why?
 - The criterion: *Judges assess which team did best to persuade them by logical argument that the motion ought to be carried or rejected. The judges do so as the 'ordinary intelligent voter', applying a very small set of technical rules, which are there to facilitate, not displace, an analysis of arguments.*

Role Fulfillment: Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister is the first speaker in the debate
- Setting up the debate
 - A setup contains context, definitions, parameter/framework, stance, and model (if needed)
 - A setup must be:
 - Clearly linked to the motion as a whole
 - Reasonable and debatable
- Arguments to support the setup

Role Fulfillment: Leader of Opposition

- If the setup brought by the Prime Minister is unclear, or the Prime Minister does not bring any setup, the Leader of Opposition has the right (and responsibility) to set up the debate.
- Declare the stance of the Opposition:
 - Stick with the status quo (it is necessary to explain what status quo entails), or
 - Bring a counter-proposal/counter-model
- Rebuttals for the arguments brought by Prime Minister
 - Questioning your opponent is not considered as a rebuttal.
- Arguments

Definitional Challenge

- Sometimes, things go sideways. The Prime Minister might offer a definition in which it is hard to debate. When this happens, here is what the opening opposition can do:
 - Think and check back. Is it merely narrow/hard to debate in, or is it really not debatable?
 - If merely hard to debate in, it is advisable to point out the unfairness of the definition, yet carry out as it is.
 - If the definition is truly impossible to debate in, the Leader of Opposition (and *only* the Leader of Opposition) may challenge the definition.

Definitional Challenge: cont'd

- The Leader of Opposition may challenge the definition by:
 - Explaining why PM's definition is impossible to debate in
 - Stating explicitly that the LO would challenge the definition
 - Explaining the new definition and why this is a much more reasonable definition
 - Bringing arguments within the new definition

Definitional Challenge: cont'd

- ONLY CHALLENGE THE DEFINITION WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. CHECK FIRST.
- If the definition brought by the PM is unfair, but still debatable, point out the unfairness in it but proceed without changing the definition.
- Remember that a definitional challenge will change the debate drastically (and oftentimes not for the better).

Role Fulfillment: Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Opposition

- Rebuttals against the previous speaker(s)
- Arguments to further support the team's case, deepening the level of analysis brought by the team.

CLOSING HALF

Role Fulfillment: Member of Government and Opposition

- Introduction
 - Introduce your approach/key point on the issue(s)
 - Introduce your extension(s)
- Rebuttals
 - Responses to previous speakers' materials
 - Can be integrated to extension material(s)
- Bringing an extension to the debate
 - An *extension* is defined as anything that hasn't yet been said by that side of the debate
 - An extension may consist of:
 - New arguments which have not yet been made in the debate.
 - New rebuttals.
 - New examples.
 - New analysis or explanations of existing arguments.
 - (New applications of existing argumentation (e.g. if the extension speaker points out that that one of the first-half's arguments is able to defeat a new argument from the other side).

Role Fulfillment: Government and Opposition Whip

- Rebuttals
 - The aims are to scrutiny the merit and reduce the persuasiveness level of the opponent material
 - Don't stuck in 3v3 style of 3rd speaker! It is different!
- Amplify extension material(s) brought by the member speaker
 - Tell judges which point from member speaker that didn't get responded and say why that is something problematic
 - If the point is responded, why is the response is not strong enough to scrutiny the merit or reduce the level of persuasiveness that is owned by the point?
- Must not bring new matter
 - New matter means completely new line of argumentation that has not been touched before.
 - New analysis, precedence, and examples extending an established idea are allowed.

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Fulfilling roles will help adjudicators to follow the debate easily and help your team to **stay competitive** in the round. But it will not make you (a) **automatically win the debate**, (b) **immune to the fourth rank**, or (c) **get a high speaker score**
- Not fulfilling the role like (a) not bringing extensions in MG or (b) not bringing rebuttals as OO will not make your team lose. There is no such thing as automatic loss due to unfulfilled roles. Rather, you would most likely lose because when you don't (a) bring any extensions as MG or (b) rebutting as OO, you're missing out opportunities in which you can fortify your case and contribute in the debate's development.

Points of Information

- There are several types of POIs :
 - Short, sharp, and direct question.
 - Direct rebuttal to the statement of the current speaker
 - Point of clarification: you may use POI to ask for clarification for something that you don't understand from the speaker.
 - Drawing contradiction between the First and Second Speakers.
 - Forcing the speaker to directly engage with your case.
- Maximum length of a POI: 15 seconds.

Manners

Manners can add to a speaker's score. An effective delivery may make a simple idea seem very compelling.

- Clarity
 - Most important manner!
- Additional elements:
 - Humor
 - Wit (Crafty Packages and Catchy Words)

Manner is one element in the persuasiveness scale of your team performance.

Final Words:

- Debate is not about technicality, it is a package of diverse ability to **creating, analyzing, structuring, and narrating an argument supported with strong knowledge** of issue(s) which must be judged **holistically** not partial. This is why score in BP is not broken down into the infamous *Manner-Matter-Method*.