

Canadian Junior National Debating Championships
Discussion Style Debate Rules

1. The debate shall be presided over by a moderator. The debaters should address him/her as “Mr. / Madam Chair” or “Mr. / Madam Moderator”. All references to other debaters should be made in the third person.

2. Each debater is expected to deliver a constructive speech and to rebut the arguments of the opposing team. After the first four speeches, there is a ten minute “discussion period” in which a debater may, after being called upon by the moderator, pose a question to an opposing debater. Finally, the first speaker from each team will present a rebuttal or summary speech. The speaking order is as follows:

1st Affirmative Constructive Speech	5 minutes
1st Negative Constructive Speech	5 minutes
2nd Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
2nd Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Discussion Period	10 minutes
Break	5 minutes
1st Negative Rebuttal	3 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

3. The affirmative must define the resolution in a reasonable manner. The negative team is expected to debate the terms as defined, and in the case of an inappropriate definition, will be compensated by the judges.

4. Discussion period:

- During the discussion period, debaters should raise their hand, and upon being recognized by the moderator, proceed to ask questions of their opponents. Questions may be directed at one individual, or may be posed to the team in general.
- When questioning, the questioner should ask questions rather than make speeches. He/she may not insist on a “yes or no” answer.
- The debater being questioned must answer any questions, regardless of apparent relevance, as long as the questions are not of a personal nature. He/she may request that the question be clarified but should not use this as a delaying tactic. Stalling will be penalized. Answers should not be longer than a sentence or two.
- If a debater is answering a question, he/she may ask a question of the opposing side as soon as he/she has finished his/her answer. Only if he/she does not ask a question will the moderator call on the next person who puts up his/her hand.
- The moderator will attempt to ensure that each debater is offered an equal amount of time in which to ask or answer questions. Questions should alternate from side to side.
- No new constructive arguments may be introduced during the discussion period, although new evidence may be used.
- Judges should penalize debaters for a lack of participation.

5. During the rebuttal speech, debaters may not bring up any new arguments or new evidence except in direct refutation of material which has already been presented.

6. There are no points of order, points of privilege, points of information or heckling.