

A detailed guide to

THE BEO DEBATE



Stage 1

This should be a summary of your research and an opportunity to explain your stance from the perspective of your assigned role. This initial presentation must be minimum 2 minutes and maximum 5 minutes long.

During this stage, the advisors should listen carefully and note down arguments or examples that they might want to point out to the debaters to address later.

Stage 2

This is a chance for the whole team to catch up and compare notes or opinions. The advisors should be able to highlight interesting facts or angles for the debaters and help form a strategy if necessary.

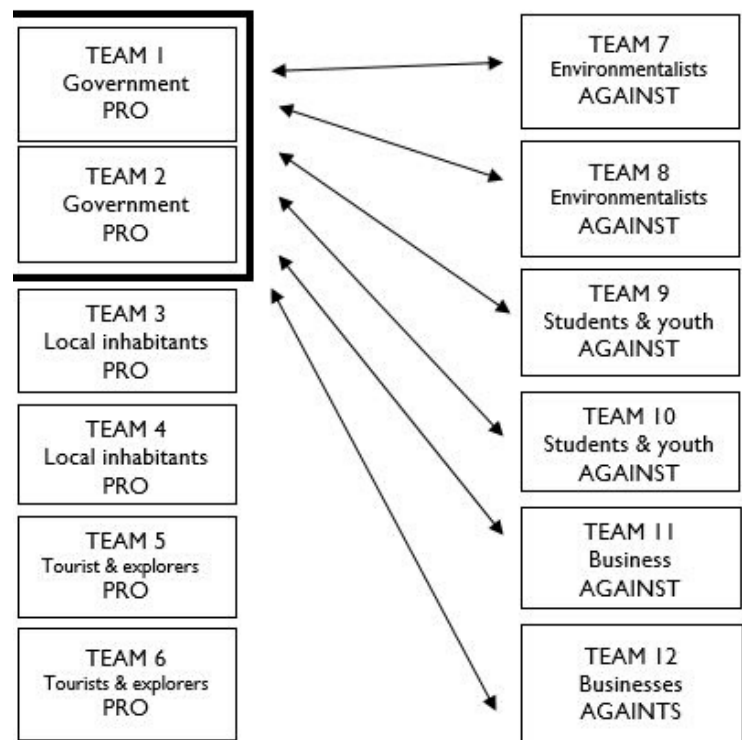


Stage 3

This stage will be divided into six 10 minute cycles. One of the 6 roles will be discussed in each cycle. The debate cycle will mainly focus on the role in question and the 3 teams who oppose its stance.

So, for example, the first cycle will focus on Government which is in favour of the concept. Teams 1 and 2 (refer to the diagram below) will each present their opening statement which should express why they believe in their stance.

Teams 7 – 12, who are against it, now have the chance to question the governments and show evidence or examples of why they oppose. Similarly, the government will hopefully show more of their research and evidence in the process by responding to the other teams. Teams 3-6 in the diagram below can also contribute if they wish to.



However, they are sharing the same stance with the government, they are not expected to present persuasive arguments. These teams are also encouraged to pay close attention and to take notes as:

1. They may want to refer to something that's been said later
2. They may be asked at any point to summarize the debate for the benefit of the audience as well as participants.

All participating members are expected to behave maturely. It is in the interest of the team to debate respectfully at all times as this aspect is incorporated into one of the judging criteria (The Guidelines p. 35).

Once the time limit is up, the debate will move on to the next role. The 'in favour' roles and the 'against' roles will be alternated. The timing and the flow of the debate will be managed by the debate chair and his / her assistant.

Debaters must not shout over each other. Teams who want to speak must raise their hand and the debate chair will place them on the speakers' list and invite them to make their contribution when appropriate. Please note that the chair will not invite any teams to participate unless they indicate they want to do so. It is not the chair's responsibility to ensure equal participation. It is solely the team's responsibility to be proactive and demonstrate their language and debating skills to the judges.

Furthermore, all participating members are expected to behave maturely. It is in the interest of the team to debate respectfully at all times as this aspect is incorporated into one of the judging criteria (The Guidelines p. 35).

Again, advisors should listen carefully and note down any interesting / important issues or arguments that were not presented in a convincing manner etc. as their input may be instrumental in Stage 4. This year, they will also be allowed to pass hand written messages / suggestions to the debaters during the debate cycle. They are expected to do so respectfully, without interrupting the flow of the debate or the other teams.

Stage 4

This again is an opportunity for the whole team to come together again, reflect on the debate and re-evaluate their stance – do they still believe that their research fully supports their stance or have they heard compelling arguments that have led them to change their mind? This is also the advisors' last chance to feed some ideas to the debaters for their closing statement.



Stage 5

Each team will now vote. The vote is initially secret (they will cast their vote into a ballot) and the outcome of the vote bears no impact on the evaluation of their performance.



Stage 6

Votes are revealed one by one and as each vote is revealed the team is asked to present their closing statement. The aim of the closing statement is to clearly and concisely explain why the team voted in line with their initial stance or why they have changed their mind. Please remember that the closing statement cannot last more than 3 minutes. There is no prescribed minimum time.