World Schools Debate

Speech by Speech – Alfred Snider
Over 70 countries use this debate format

Used in English, but also in many other languages

World Championship – 60+ countries compete, now including Palestine.
Common practice

- Proposition must debate the topic or LOSE!
- No need to answer every little argument, but engage major issues
- Delivery that an intelligent citizen can understand
- Argument DEVELOPMENT is key to winning
- Avoid slang, remain professional and polite
- Points of information, not a conversation
What it is....

- Competition of ideas
- Politeness, respect for opponents, judges, the activity
- Constructive disagreement
- Use argument and logic
- Avoid lying and falsification
First Proposition

- 8 Minute speech
- Introduction
- Define crucial terms
- How to make decision - Model/Plan/Criteria as needed
- Two Major Arguments, well developed
- Conclusion
First Opposition

- 8 minute speech
- Analyze proposition interpretation
- Refute major points of previous speaker
- Present two major arguments against the motion
- Conclusion
Second Proposition

- 8 minute speech
- Introduction
- Refute major arguments of previous speech
- Rebuild your original arguments
- Present one NEW major argument
- Conclusion
Second Opposition

- 8 minute speech
- Introduction
- Refute major argument of previous speaker
- Rebuild your original major argument
- Present ONE new major argument of your own
- Conclusion
Third Proposition

- 8 minute speech
- Purpose: set the stage for the decision to be made
- Introduction
- Final criticism of opposition major arguments, 1-2-3
- Final rebuilding of your major arguments, 1-2-3
- Conclusion
Third Opposition

- 8 minute speech
- Purpose: set the stage for the decision to be made
- Introduction
- Final criticism of proposition major arguments, 1-2-3
- Final rebuilding of your major arguments, 1-2-3
- Conclusion
Opposition Summary

- 4 minute speech – no points of information
- Introduction (short)
- Summarize the debate in a way that makes it look like you win, but seem objective
- Retructure debate around “big questions” or “points of clash”
- Conclusion (short)
Proposition Summary

- 4 minute speech – no points of information
- Introduction (short)
- Summarize the debate in a way that makes it look like you win, but seem objective
- Rerstructure debate around “big questions” or “points of clash”
- Conclusion (short)
You must offer them, you must be engaged, you must be challenging the other team, or lose.

Each team member should offer a point at least three times during each speech.

Offer short points that are difficult to answer.

Use the answers later in one of the speeches.
Points of Information - taking

- You must take them, you must be engaged with the other team, or lose.
- Each speaker should take a point at least two times during each speech.
- Offer short answers to show you are in control.
- Offer answers that turn the tables on them.
- Use your answers later in one of the speeches.
Preparation

- Some motions are PREPARED, in that you get them a few weeks in advance.

- Some motions are IMPROMPTU, in that you receive it ONE HOUR before the debate, and the students must prepare ON THEIR OWN without help from others, without the internet, and with only blank paper, a dictionary and an almanac.