



The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
Debating Society

2009 UWODS High School Championships Style Guide

Tournament

The tournament will consist of 5 preliminary rounds of debate, with two rounds on Friday evening and three rounds on Saturday. The first three rounds of debate will be open adjudication, with the final two preliminary rounds being closed. The tournament will break to open Semi Finals directly following the completion of the 5th preliminary round of debate on Saturday afternoon.

Motions

The two rounds on Friday evening will be on the prepared topic. Each team will be required to debate both the Government and Opposition side of the motion. Saturday's rounds will be impromptu. At the beginning of each round, all teams will be offered a "straight resolution" (e.g. THBT Veto Power Has No Place in the United Nations Security Council) as well as a "squirrleable resolution" (e.g. TH Has Lost Its Keys). It will be the responsibility of the Government team in each room to decide which of the two types of resolutions they'd like to work with.

If they chose the straight resolution, the Government team must run the straight

resolution word for word, i.e. in the spirit that it was presented. If the Government team decides they'd rather introduce a case that they have been working on themselves, they would use the squirreleable resolution as a link into their own case (e.g. "When I think of losing my keys, I think of...."). Prior to this year, all high school tournaments run by the University of Western Ontario have been completely of the squirreleable nature.

Once the government has decided on a straight or squirreleable motion that have to tell the opposition team which choice they have made. For squirreleable motions, the government must tell the opposition their choice of motion.

The straight topics presented will be within the realm of all present debaters.

Speaking Times

Prime Minister	7 minutes
Member of the Opposition	7 minutes
Minister of the Crown	7 minutes
Leader of the Opposition	10 minutes
Prime Minister's Rebuttal	3 minutes

	Member	Role
Government 7 Minutes	Prime Minister (PM)	Build Government's case by presenting a number of arguments.
Opposition 7 Minutes	Member of the Opposition (MO)	Introduce Opposition arguments, rebut Government's case.
Government 7 Minutes	Minister of the Crown (MC)	Introduce Government's final arguments, rebuild Government's original arguments and rebut Opposition's arguments.
Opposition 10 Minutes	Leader of the Opposition (LO)	Introduce Opposition's final arguments, rebuild Opposition's original arguments, and rebut Government's entire case.
Government 3 Minutes	Prime Minister (PM)	Rebuild critical aspects of Government case and sum up entire debate by showing why the Government has won the debate.

Road mapping: "Tell them what you're going to say, say it, and tell them what you said."

Prime Minister Constructive (PMC):

- **Introduce the issue** by stating and *briefly* describing the problem you wish to solve or the side of a philosophical issue you wish to defend.
- **Case statement:** one or two sentences outlining what you, the Government, propose.
- **Roadmap** your arguments. For each argument, state the point and **flesh out** your argument with proof. The more your case is based on logic and observable knowledge, rather than numbers, the stronger your case is.
- **Conclude** by summarizing your case and the arguments you brought up. Reiterate the most important thing in this round.

Strategic point: Your purpose is to introduce a strong Government case with confidence and clarity, setting the right tone for the debate and forcing the Opposition to work hard to bring you down.

Member of the Opposition (MO):

- Take the case the Government presented and explain why their solution cannot work, or why the problem doesn't actually exist.
- Present a **new**, independent **argument** relating to the case. Your argument is for the opposite of the government's case, bringing it down.
- **"Crash and Burn:"** Go through each of the PMC points and explain why they fall.

Strategic point: your purpose is to introduce the Opposition stance (the crux of the Opposition case) and to bring down all that the PM just said, making it difficult for the MC to rebuild.

Minister of the Crown (MC)

- Bring forth one or two **additional** arguments supporting the government.
- Go through the points presented by the MO and rebut them. Take issue with their assumptions, and challenge their premises. Try to **take the MO out** of the round!
- **Reconstruct** the PMC points that were refuted by the MO. Clean up the mess left

in the last speech and explain why the MO is wrong. Go through each of the PMC arguments, say what the MO said about them, and prove why they still stand.

Strategic point: your argument(s) must be different from those of the PM, as you are required to add value to the round of debate. Make sure not to spend too much time on constructive argumentation. Reconstruction is key!

Leader of the Opposition (LO):

- **Introduce the bulk** of the opposition arguments. Try to maintain thematic consistency, following the stance introduced by the MO but developing it much further with your 3 or 4 points. In general, try to have as many arguments as the PM had.
- **Reconstruct** the argument(s) presented by the MO.
- Go through each Government argument and **destroy** it. Challenge the logic, the assumptions, the feasibility, etc. At the end, none of the strong Government points should be standing.
- *In the final three minutes*, present a **final rebuttal**. Go through the round thematically, and explain why the Government cannot win the round. Refute the Government's strong points and highlight your strong points. Explain why you deserve to win.

Strategic point: You have 10 minutes, so pace yourself carefully, and watch the time signals. You cannot bring up new evidence in the last three minutes, as that is your summary time. Hopefully, you have already begun attacking the Government arguments by this time. Use the last couple minutes to look at the round more generally. Talk about the theme of the round, the strongest couple arguments, and why the Opposition has done a better job. End strong!

Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR):

- Take the two or three strongest points against you and rebut them.
- Conclude by returning the debate to the **thematic principles** you outlined in the PMC.
- Explain why you win.
- Note: new arguments cannot be presented in the PMR.

Strategic point: You do not have time to go through every argument in the round, so do not attempt this. Organize your speech into the main three issues/types of arguments. Take each issue, say a few things about what was said by each side, and show how the balance swings in your favour. End strong!!

POINTS OF INFORMATION

POIs are opportunities for you to rise during your opposition's speeches and offer a question or comment. By saying "On a Point of Information" and displaying correct form (one hand on your head, one hand held out palm up), the speaker knows you are interested in stealing the floor. They can accept your POI or decline it by waiving you down or saying "No thank you."

You can use the POI to clarify something about which you are confused, point out a flaw/contradiction in the speaker's argument, or make a comment that will link to something you will talk about later.

It is important to keep the POI **brief and to the point** (5-10 seconds), but also to keep yourself in the round with both strong use and reception of POIs.

*The general rule in a round of debate: **"Give Two, Take Two"**

Protected time: POIs cannot be offered during the first and last minute of constructive speeches. In the LO speech, POIs cannot be offered in the last three minutes, and the entire PMR is protected.