School Mock Court Case Project SCIO Debating

Raise your argument, not your voice.

MOCK COURT
DEBATING COMPETITION

Overview:

The objective of the project is not to prove one team as right/wrong but rather to widen views and open the minds of all involved.
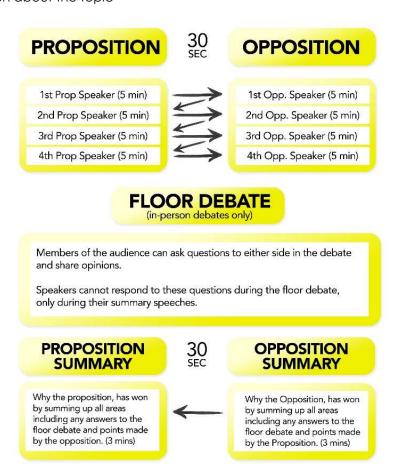
There will be 2 opposing teams (proposition and opposition), each consisting of 4 speakers. The 'winning team' is decided by majority vote of the audience. Time-keeping and order is regulated by the Chairperson.

Participants

- Proposition/Opposition teams
- Chairperson
- Audience

Order

- Each speaker will give max. 5min speech
- Followed by a Floor Debate for max. 5min
- One speaker from Opposition team will give Summary max. 3min
- One speaker from Proposition team will give Summary max. 3min
- The Chairperson will announce winner
- General discussion about the topic

Rules

- The Chairperson must signal when each speaker has 20sec remaining
- The Chairperson cannot share opinions during debate
- Speakers must include authoritative productions to support their positions (submitted to VCourt prior to debate)
- The order of speakers must not be changed
- No revision of the position of a team is permitted during debate
- Interrupting a speaker is forbidden
- Questions asked during the floor debate must be fair, clear and have a direct bearing on the debate
- Majority vote wins
- Speakers must treat opponents with respect (penalty points may be imposed)
- Speakers are allowed to repeat or vary an argument

Programme

- Q&A lectures (2 pro & 2 opp) over a 4-week period
- At the end of the final lecture, teams will be assigned to proposition/opposition irrespective of their personal viewpoint

Note: debate topics may involve sensitive issues