



Premier's Debating Challenge

Years 5 and 6

Welcome to the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6 for the Hunter Challenge Trophy! This document includes all the rules and information for the competition, some advice on organising and running your debates, and both an in-person and online chairperson and results form. If you have any questions about the competition, please don't hesitate to contact us at debating@det.nsw.edu.au or (02) 8512 1172.

Rules of the competition

- In any given debate a team will field four members. Those members can change from debate to debate, so a team can in fact be made up of a large squad of students. The students in this Years 5 and 6 competition can really be from any year in primary school.
- Where a school has entered two teams, a student must not appear in both of those teams, so the first team must have a different and separate squad from the second team. Once a student has appeared for the first team they must not appear for the second at any stage of the competition and vice versa.
- Of the four members of the team, three will speak and one will act as the team adviser in the preparation room and during the debate.
- The speaking time for the Years 5 and 6 competition is 4 minutes. There will be a warning bell at 3 minutes, two bells at 4 minutes and a continuous bell at 5 minutes.
- Teams will have 60 minutes in which to prepare their case. For in-person debates, the home school must ensure that both teams have a quiet space in which they can prepare without interruption.
- Teams are not allowed to take mobile phones into the preparation rooms. These should be handed to a teacher before preparation begins for safe keeping.
- Teams must not take any notes or research into the preparation rooms. Only pens, blank paper and cards, stopwatches and a dictionary are allowed (though teams are discouraged from using the dictionary to define the topic).
- Any disputes regarding any aspect of the conduct of a debate must be forwarded in writing to the Speaking Competitions Officer within one week.
- Teams have been organised into zones where they will compete in four debates.
- The team or teams with the best record in the zone will proceed to a knockout finals series that will determine a regional champion.
- The ten regional champions will meet at a residential championships tournament at The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops from Sunday 13 to Wednesday 16 November (state health advice permitting.) Schools should be aware that there are costs associated with the state championships.

Deadlines and topic areas

Round 1 to be completed by 20 May (end Wk 4 T2)	Education
Round 2 to be completed by 10 June (end Wk 7 T2)	The media
Round 3 to be completed by 1 July (end Wk 10 T2)	Parents and kids
Round 4 to be completed by 5 August (end Wk 3 T3)	Health and fitness
Round 5 to be completed by 19 August (end Wk 5 T3)	Sport
Knockout finals from September through November	General
Championships to take place from 13 to 16 November	General



Premier's Debating Challenge

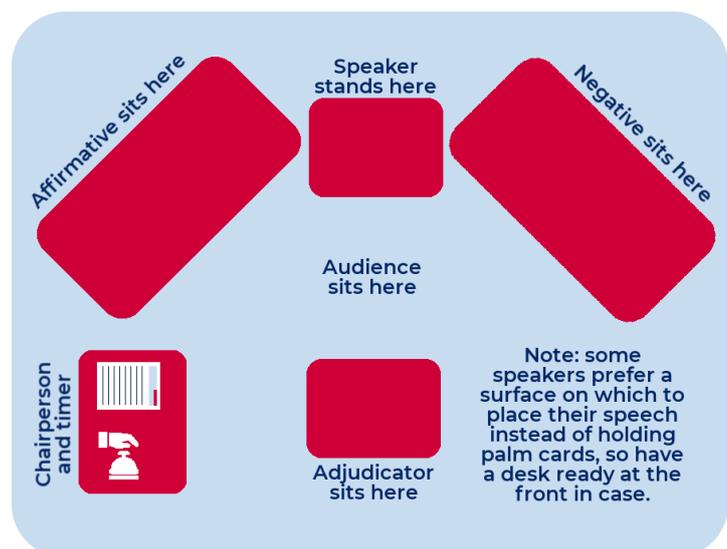
Years 5 and 6

Organising the zone debates

- The home team (which appears on the left-hand side of the draw) is responsible for contacting the other team to begin organising a debate, and is also responsible for arranging the adjudicator.
- No team can be forced to travel, so a debate will need to be conducted online if that's the preference of either team.
- If it suits both teams to hold the debate at the away school instead of the home school, or to hold two debates on one day, or even to hold the debates out of order, that's absolutely fine.
- For online debates, schools should use the [booking form on our website](#) to send through details so that we can assign an adjudicator. For in-person debates there's a list of adjudicators included with this information. Home teams should contact a few nearby adjudicators to find someone free to come along, but don't hesitate to contact us for help if no-one is available after a few tries.
- Once arrangements have been made for a debate, teams should try to give at least 48 hours' notice if they need to postpone. A suitable alternative should then be organised by the team that postponed.
- If a debate has not taken place by the due date, it may be awarded as a forfeit to the team deemed to be disadvantaged by the other team's unwillingness to debate. Note that it's typically fine to miss earlier deadlines as long as teams can catch up.
- A forfeit counts as a win. Teams should be aware that a forfeit disadvantages all the teams in the zone, so every effort should be made to complete the debates.
- If any problems arise which prevent the organisation of a debate, please contact us as soon as possible for advice. We can help sort out most timing issues before they blow up and also help find an adjudicator if that's the problem. Just email debating@det.nsw.edu.au with any questions or call (02) 8512 1172.

Setting up for an in-person debate

- The home school is responsible for organising an adjudicator using the list of qualified people in the area.
- It's also fine to hold an in-person debate but have the adjudicator Zoom in, in which case teachers can use the adjudicator booking procedure outlined below for online debates.
- Here's a rough sketch of how to set up the debating space.
- Note that the host school will also need to provide two quiet preparation spaces where the teams can work without interruption for the hour before the debate.
- Finally, it's a good idea for the home school to have 2 students ready to act as chairperson and timekeeper. It's fine if a teacher ends up doing those jobs but it's a good opportunity to get younger students involved.



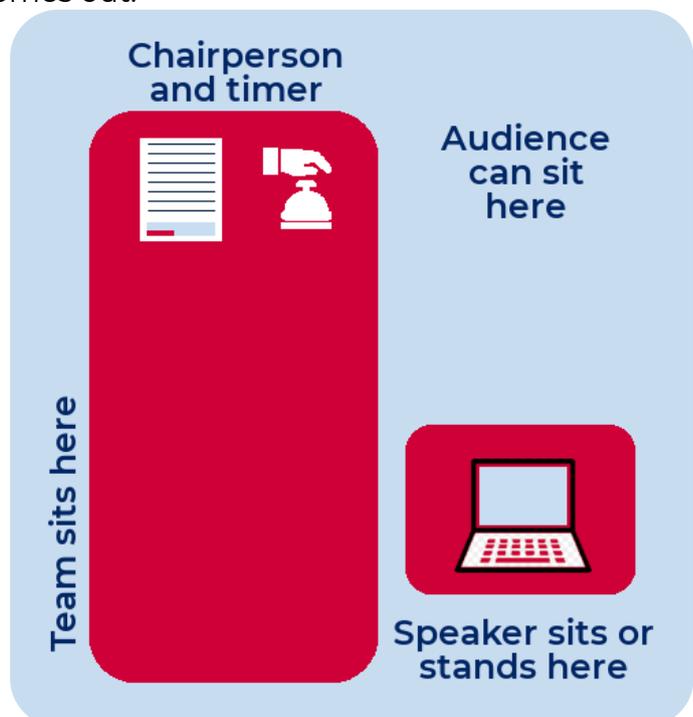


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Setting up for an online debate

- Most online debates are conducted using Zoom, but if both schools are more familiar with Microsoft Teams or Google Meet then those platforms are fine as well.
- The teachers involved should determine which of them will be hosting the online meeting, and that teacher should then head to www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au to send us the details of the debate so that we can appoint an adjudicator. Note that we just need the start time of the actual debate – not the time that teams will be meeting online to begin topic selection which will typically be 1 hour 10 minutes earlier.
- Next, the teacher who's hosting should set up an online meeting for the date and time the teams have agreed upon. Some technical instructions are available on our website, but the most important thing is to ensure that people can 'Sign in with a registered Zoom Account' (the meeting host will need to change the default setting from 'Sign in with DoE Single Sign-On.')
- Remember that teams will need to meet up online 1 hour 10 minutes before the debate in order to select the topic and determine the affirmative and the negative.
- Finally, send an invite to the online meeting to the other school and to debating@det.nsw.edu.au. We'll pass it on to the adjudicator we appoint.
- After topic selection, both teams should stay onscreen (but muted) throughout preparation time. If a team will be unable to stay onscreen, their teacher needs to discuss this with the other teacher prior to the debate.
- It's fine to set up the room and the space however works best – the only thing we really need is for the debater speaking to be close to the microphone and for the team to sit near to where the sound comes out.
- Here's a sketch of what would work best for a simple laptop connection. Note that we're recommending both teams have their own chairperson and timekeeper. It's fine if a teacher fills those roles as long as both venues have someone responsible for keeping time and ringing the bell for their debaters.
- It's a good idea to have the debater who is speaking move away from their team – the team isn't allowed to help during the speech.
- As the debater who's finished speaking leaves they can simply mute the laptop and turn it around to face towards the team at their desk and the chairperson. Then when the next debater comes to the front they can turn the laptop back towards them and unmute it.
- If schools have a wall-mounted set-up like a smartboard then obviously that will be fine too – just focus on having the debater speaking near the microphone and the team near wherever the sound comes out.
- Be sure to put the laptop window in whatever layout shows a big picture of the person speaking (typically a 'speaker view' as opposed to a 'gallery view') and remember to mute the laptop when the other team is delivering their speeches.





Trouble-shooting an online debate

- In the past two years thousands of debates have run over Zoom with only a very small number of technical glitches, but just in case, here are a few simple tips in case the technology causes problems.
- If a speech starts to break up in a way that makes it difficult to hear, the adjudicator or the other teacher should unmute and interrupt. The timer should stop, and then the speaker should re-start the chunk of their speech that broke up, with the timer making generous allowance for the break.
- If it seems like the internet is spotty, teachers can try turning off their cameras so that they are only transmitting sound. Often that cleans up the sound and it's really all that's needed for the debate to work. Honestly a simple conference call on the teachers' phones will work in a pinch.
- If the technology fails and the debate needs to be abandoned for the day, then the teams should retain all their preparation work and contact us for advice on how to proceed.
- If the problem is with the adjudicator's connection, one teacher can record the meeting and then upload the recording to their Google Drive through the portal. Invite us to view the video of the meeting by emailing debating@det.nsw.edu.au and we'll record our adjudication and feedback and send it to both teams.
- Call us on (02) 8512 1172 at any time for advice on any aspect of the technology.

Topics and the coin toss

- Topics for all four debates will be mailed out to schools in sealed envelopes. All schools are responsible for keeping those envelopes secret and safe.
- The envelopes are sealed with a sticker that says what round they're for and which teams are involved.
- Once both teams are present, online or in person, they should open the appropriate envelopes.
- Only the students involved in the debate may take part in topic selection, and teachers aren't allowed to be part of the process in any way.
- Teams will rank the topics from 1 to 3. Both third choices will be eliminated and the highest-rated topic chosen. Where two remaining topics are equally popular, a coin toss will decide the topic.
- The toss of a coin will also decide which team is the affirmative and which the negative. The winner of the toss is always the affirmative.
- For online debates, the host of the meeting can use wheelofnames.com to conduct the 'coin toss.' Simply close the ads (it's a free, non-educational website but the sponsor links can be closed), enter the names of the two schools into the space on the right of the screen, share the screen so both teams can see it and finally spin the wheel. The winner will be announced and they're the affirmative.
- 'Wheel of Names' allows users to tailor the set-up a bit. We recommend clicking 'Customize' at the top of the page, shortening the spin time to 5 seconds and changing the winner message to 'We have an affirmative!'



Reporting the results

- For in-person debates, the host team should use the included 'Chairperson and results form for in-person debating' to help run the debate. Once the debate's over they should record who won at the bottom and send a copy through to debating@det.nsw.edu.au
- For online debates, both teams should use the other included 'Chairperson and results form for online debating' and both of them should send the result through. There's no need to fill in the part that refers to the other team's students.
- It's also fine to just email through the names of the teams, the topic, the adjudicator and the result.
- Don't worry if some of those details are missing – we'll figure out what we need to from the emails we receive as long as we get the result as soon as possible.
- We'll send regular emails to update schools on the wins and losses in the zone. If it looks like we're missing a result, teachers can just reply with any information they remember about the debate we're missing.

Thanks for being part of the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6! With everything that's going on in schools this year we know teachers are busier than ever and we really appreciate all the extra work that goes into giving your students this kind of opportunity. If you have any questions about the competition or need any support at all, please don't hesitate to contact us using the details included below, and best of luck for your debates!

Justine Clarke
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NSW Department of Education
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Chairperson and results form for online debating

Negative Chairperson

Welcome to the ____ round of the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6!

Today, each speaker may speak for 4 minutes. There will be a warning bell at 3 minutes and 2 bells at 4 minutes. There will be a continuous bell at 5 minutes.

The adjudicator for this debate is: _____

Our negative team for this debate is: _____

Our first speaker is: _____

Our second speaker is: _____

Our third speaker is: _____

And our fourth speaker is: _____

Over to you, affirmative chairperson!

Thanks! Our affirmative team is: _____

Our first speaker is: _____

Our second speaker is: _____

Our third speaker is: _____

And our fourth speaker is: _____

The topic for this debate is: _____

Finally, please take a moment to make sure all mobile phones are switched off.

Now, please welcome the first speaker of the affirmative to open the debate.

Affirmative Chairperson

From this point on, each chairperson should take turns introducing their speakers when the adjudicator gives them a wave. When it's over the adjudicator will take some time to make their decision and then they will unmute and announce the result of the debate.

After they've spoken the winning chairperson should call on their fourth speaker to deliver the thank-you speech, and then the other chairperson should call on their fourth speaker to deliver their thank-you speech.

Results

Teacher's name: _____

Winning team: _____

Email this completed form to: debating@det.nsw.edu.au



Premier's Debating Challenge

Chairperson and results form for in-person debating

Years 5 and 6

Welcome to the _____ round of the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5 and 6!

This debate is between _____ and _____

The affirmative team from _____

is first speaker _____

second speaker _____

third speaker _____

and fourth speaker _____

The negative team from _____

is first speaker _____

second speaker _____

third speaker _____

and fourth speaker _____

The adjudicator for this debate is _____

The speaking time for this debate is 4 minutes. There will be a warning bell at 3 minutes, two bells at 4 minutes, and a continuous bell at 5 minutes.

The topic for this debate is _____

Finally, please take a moment to make sure all mobile phones are switched off.

Now please welcome the first affirmative speaker to open the debate.

(After each speaker, wait for a signal from the adjudicator and then introduce the next speaker to continue debate. Then, when the debate is over and the adjudicator signals that they are ready, introduce the adjudicator.)

Please welcome the adjudicator to announce the result of this debate.

(After the adjudication) Thank you for that. Please now welcome a representative from _____ to congratulate the winners.

(After that speech) Please welcome a member of the winning team to respond.

Results

Teacher's names: _____

Winning team: _____

Email this completed form to: debating@det.nsw.edu.au