

## GUIDELINES FOR SCIENCE SLAM

Team will compete against each other in teams of 2 students. Sessions will be one hour long. This will be in the form of unprepared topic which will be given one hour prior to the Slam. The slam sessions can be 40 minutes. 20 debating and 20 minutes questions to students and voting.

Once the topic has been provided to participants, no materials prepared at times other than the 20 minute preparation time prior to the debate may be used during a Slam.

Participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of personal and intellectual integrity. No student may manufacture information for use in debates; no judge may issue an unaccountable and unfair decision; no coach may suborn unethical practice. Individuals and schools may forfeit debates, and awards for violations.

There are two sides in the Slam: the proposition side and the opposition side. The proposition team makes a case for the motion/topic. The opposition team opposes the case made by the proposition team, using direct and indirect refutation. Topics or Motions for debate are generally announced one hour prior to competitions. Typically, topics are drawn from current events and notable public policy issues.

## PREPARATION TIME

There is 1 hour of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to the beginning of a Slam. Debaters may use personally prepared research briefs and published material (dictionaries, periodicals, briefing papers, books, etc.) during preparation time. Debaters may also consult with coaches and other students at their school during this time. Debaters may use electronic resources computer, PDA, mobile phone, etc. and may access the Internet during this time. Published and pre-prepared documents (those documents organized prior to the preparation time period) cannot be used during the debate. Debaters may use notes that they prepare during preparation time; they may also use notes they have prepared during the debate (e.g., notes of speakers in the debate, also known as a 'flowsheet.')

In other words, debaters must transcribe any advanced prepared notes or published information for use during the Slam.

Students must be at the assigned Science Slam area and ready to begin speaking at the end of preparation time. Students do not have 1 hour of preparation time and additional walking time to a classroom to begin a debate. Preparation time of 1 hour

is the total, the maximum, amount of time from the announcement of the debate topic to the beginning of the opening speech of a slam.

## SPEAKER ORDER AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are two debaters per side. Each debater gives one speech. This is the order of the speeches:

### First proposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with three or four major points.

### First opposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker makes several arguments against the proposition team's case and refutes the proposition's major points.

### Second proposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker should rebuild and extend upon the proposition's case. This means that this speaker must defend and amplify the original proposition points and refute the opposition's major arguments.

### Second opposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker amplifies the opposition arguments against the case, providing new information about why the opposition team should win the debate. This speaker should answer the proposition's answers to the opposition team's original arguments. This speaker may split summarization of the debate with the opposition rebuttalist.

### Opposition rebuttal – 5 minutes

This speaker must put the debate together and explain why, given one or more arguments in the debate, the opposition team should win the debate. This speaker accounts for or refutes the proposition's major points.

### Proposition rebuttal – 5 minutes

This speaker should summarize the issues in the debate and explain why, even with the opposition's arguments, the proposition teams should win the debate. This speaker accounts for all remaining major points of the opposition team.

## POINTS OF INFORMATION

A Point of Information is a request that the speaker holding the floor yield time to an opponent for a statement (argument) or a question. A person applies for a point of information by standing or standing and saying "Information." No other words may be used in applying for a Point of Information. A speaker may reject a point by gently waving a hand in the down position, indicating that the opponent should sit. A speaker may also reject the point verbally by saying "No, thank you." Either method of rejecting a point attempt may be used, although the former is preferred as it is less disruptive for the speaker. If the speaker accepts a point (2 or more points ought to be accepted during any given speech), the speaker simply replies to an attempt by saying "Yes" or "I'll take your point." It is possible for more than one person on a team to request a point at any one time. A rejection by the speaker (by a nonverbal wave of the hand or negative verbal reply) is understood to apply to all opponents attempting a point at that time.

A Point of Information, also known as a POI, may only be attempted during the middle three minutes of each constructive speech – the 5 minutes speeches of the debate (after the first and before the last minute; the opening and closing minutes of a speech are identified as 'protected time' for the speaker and may not be interrupted by POIs). An accepted POI may not be more than 15 seconds.

## HECKLING

Strategically directed heckling (supportive and argumentative) is permitted. Heckling is a single word or brief phrase (almost always no more than 2 words) and directed to the judge of the debate. A heckle is a reminder to the judge to pay close attention to the information immediately expressed by the speaker. Some heckles are non-verbal and supportive of teammates (e.g., applause during a speech by teammates rapping their knuckles or the palm of their hands on a desktop to encourage the judge to heed a particularly strong point being made by the speaker.) Other heckles are verbal and alert the judge to a problem in the opposing side's argument. For example, if a member of an opposing team offers a major point without including evidence to verify her or his reasoning (i.e., the speaker does not make a complete argument, which must include 'A-R-E,' Assertion-Reasoning-Evidence) a person on the listening team may heckle by calling out, "Evidence." This lets the judge know that the point is not yet an argument and should not receive the same standing as well-supported issues that are presented in the debate.

Only argumentative heckling is permitted. Barracking, attempts to disrupt a speech through constant and boorish commentary (often referred to as 'the heckler's veto') is not permitted.

## NO NEW ARGUMENTS IN REBUTTAL SPEECHES

Students may present new arguments in any speech in the debate except the final speech for each side, the third speech or rebuttal speech. No new arguments may be offered in these speeches. What is a new argument? It is an issue that does not have a foundation in the debate up to the point of its introduction. It is an entirely new issue, unrelated to earlier arguments. In other words, the rebuttal speakers are able to present new information in their speeches, just so the material is a continuation of a line of argument from the earlier constructive speeches in the debate. Rebuttal speakers are not expected to simply copy and repeat the arguments raised by their partners. New assessment of previously established positions, new argument analysis and examples for continued arguments are acceptable in the rebuttal speeches.