

Important Features

CONTENT, STYLE, AND STRATEGY

A World Schools debate is judged on three elements:

- *Content*—the strength of the arguments presented and how they are supported and explained.
- *Style*—the way a particular speech is presented; how a debater says something.
- *Strategy*—the structure of the speech and timing and how speakers demonstrate their understanding of broader issues.

Each of these elements is judged separately—up to 40% each for content and style; up to 20% for strategy. Yet, to be successful, a debater must combine them. She must present sound arguments in a logical manner and with an interesting, persuasive speaking style. A good speaker makes the substance of what she says integral to how she says it, using an appropriate style for the matter at hand.

RESERVE SPEAKERS

Some tournaments permit teams to include reserve speakers—team members who prepare for and attend the debate but who do not take the floor. These members play a key role by providing instant feedback and encouraging their team members through the use of applause and appropriate gestures. Because reserve speakers will have seen the debate from the same perspective as the adjudicators and have a clearer understanding of which arguments have been strongest, they can play a critical role in advising the debater who will be giving the reply speech. Reserve members can also substitute in the rare event that a designated speaker is unable to speak.

POINTS OF INFORMATION

World Schools encourages the use of POIs to ensure that debaters remain engaged throughout the debate. Each debater is encouraged to offer between three and five POIs per speech and can lose points for failing to do so. Likewise, each speaker should accept at least one or two. Those who do not are penalized for content on the grounds that they are trying to limit the clash in the debate. Points of Information may be offered after the