

Asian Parliamentary

Asian Parliamentary is possibly the most widely used format in the world. It is used at the university level in the All-Asian Debating Championship and various regional competitions throughout Asia. It is also widely used at the high school level in some parts of Asia, notably Korea, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore.

The format of Asians is very similar to that of the World Schools. There are differences, however. For example, in World Schools, debaters must debate the motion as it is; the level of abstraction or generality of the motion carries over to the debate. In Asians, the Government may set a context (define the motion to a region or to a country). Asians also requires the Opposition to demonstrate that the position they are defending has a net benefit or fewer harms than the Government proposal. The Opposition cannot take a straight negation approach wherein they only disprove the Government's benefits.

One of the primary advantages of Asians is that the rules are intuitive. The format has three speakers per side and features both reply speeches and Points of Information. That's about it. That said, it would be quite wrong to consider the format simplistic. Quite the reverse. Its relatively straightforward rules allow for speakers to take a wide range of approaches without being hidebound by particular requirements. The result is a fluid, pleasingly fast-moving format that allows speakers to tackle both general issues of principle and morality as well as specific policy concerns.

Asians is worth using for that reason alone, but because it is an extremely popular format, anyone with an interest in meeting and competing with other debaters—which is a major part of the activity—would be well-advised to be familiar with the approach.