

Canadian National Debate



Moderator's
(Speaker's)
Script

Senior High Open Moderator's (Speaker's) Script

The Moderator (or Speaker) is in charge of maintaining order during the debate. He opens the debate, introduces the debaters and calls the House to a close when the round is finished. All remarks made by debaters during their speeches should be addressed to the Speaker, not to other debaters. Usually, the Speaker is also the Timekeeper.

(Before you begin, write the exact resolution and the names of all debaters on the blackboard.

Check to see that judges are seated in different locations and that all debaters and officials are ready.

Consult the debaters for the pronunciation of their names.

Ask all persons present to be seated.

Proceed.)

This debate will come to order.

The resolution before us today is

Representing the Proposition are its First Speaker

_____ and the Second Speaker

_____ .

Representing the Opposition are its First Speaker _____

and the Second Speaker _____ .

On behalf of the House, I would like to express a sincere welcome to our judges:

_____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____.

and I, _____ am your Moderator (Speaker).

Each speaker will deliver an 8 minute constructive speech. The first speaker of each team will also get a 4 minute summary and rebuttal speech. I will indicate how many minutes are left in the speech with my fingers (or card) (ie. I will hold up 4 fingers or the card when 4 minutes are left). The 30 second mark is indicated with a C- shaped hand signal (or Card). The last 10 seconds are counted down on my fingers, in the same way the minutes were counted. Points of Information will be allowed during the constructive speeches only, but not during the first and last minute of the speeches. I will bang the desk after the first minute, and again with one minute remaining, to signal the time during which Points of Information may be raised. For each speech, fifteen seconds grace will be allowed. This will be counted with my arms (imagine the second hands ticking down on a clock). After each speech, I will immediately call upon the next debater to begin his or her address.

There will be no Points of Order or Points of Privilege. Heckling is also prohibited. Are there any questions regarding the rules?

(ANSWER ANY THAT ARE RAISED)

I call upon the First Speaker to introduce the Proposition case for eight minutes.

(FIRST PROPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. We shall now hear the first speaker for the Opposition.

(FIRST OPPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. I now call upon the second speaker for the Proposition.

(SECOND PROPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. The Second Opposition will now deliver the last speech opposing the case.

(SECOND OPPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the Opposition speaker. At this time, the first speaker for each side will deliver a four minute summary and rebuttal speech. No new information may be introduced during these speeches. We will start with the first opposition speaker.

(FIRST OPPOSITION'S SUMMARY/REBUTTAL)

We will now hear the Proposition's final summary and rebuttal, to be delivered by the First speaker, for four minutes.

(FIRST PROPOSITION'S SUMMARY/REBUTTAL)

I thank the member for concluding the debate. Would the judges please complete their ballot.

After collecting the Ballots,

Either invite the judges to make constructive comments, but remind them that they are not to indicate which team has won the debate.

OR

Announce which team won the debate and ask the Judges to make their comments.

This phase depends upon the Debate Organizer – make sure that you know what he/she wants you to do.

At this point take the ballots to the statistics office. Then return to the room and prepare for the next debate.

Senior High Beginner Moderator's (Speaker's) Script

The Moderator (or Speaker) is in charge of maintaining order during the debate. He opens the debate, introduces the debaters and calls the House to a close when the round is finished. All remarks made by debaters during their speeches should be addressed to the Speaker, not to other debaters. Usually, the Speaker is also the Timekeeper.

(Before you begin, write the exact resolution and the names of all debaters on the blackboard.

Check to see that judges are seated in different locations and that all debaters and officials are ready.

Consult the debaters for the pronunciation of their names.

Ask all persons present to be seated.

Proceed.)

This debate will come to order.

The resolution before us today is

Representing the Proposition are its First Speaker

----- and the Second Speaker

----- .

Representing the Opposition are its First Speaker -----

and the Second Speaker ----- .

On behalf of the House, I would like to express a sincere welcome to our judges:

----- , ----- , ----- ,

----- , and ----- .

and I, ----- am your Moderator (Speaker).

Each speaker will deliver a 8 minute constructive speech. The first speaker of each team will also get a 4 minute summary and rebuttal speech. I will indicate how many minutes are left in the speech with my fingers (or card) (ie. I will hold up 4 fingers or the card when 4 minutes are left). The 30 second mark is indicated with a C- shaped hand signal (or Card). The last 10 seconds are counted down on my fingers, in the same way the minutes were counted. Points of Information will be allowed during the constructive speeches only, but not during the first and last minute of the speeches. I will bang the desk after the first minute, and again with one minute remaining, to signal the time during which Points of Information may be raised. For each speech, fifteen seconds grace will be allowed. This will be counted with my arms (imagine the second hands ticking down on a clock). After each speech, I will immediately call upon the next debater to begin his or her address.

There will be no Points of Order or Points of Privilege. Heckling is also prohibited. Are there any questions regarding the rules?

(ANSWER ANY THAT ARE RAISED)

I call upon the First Speaker to introduce the Proposition case for six minutes.

(FIRST PROPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. We shall now hear the first speaker for the Opposition.

(FIRST OPPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. I now call upon the second speaker for the Proposition.

(SECOND PROPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the member for his/her remarks. The Second Opposition will now deliver the last speech opposing the case.

(SECOND OPPOSITION'S SPEECH)

I thank the Opposition speaker. At this time, the first speaker for each side will deliver a four minute summary and rebuttal speech. No new information may be introduced during these speeches. We will start with the first opposition speaker.

(FIRST OPPOSITION'S SUMMARY/REBUTTAL)

We will now hear the Proposition's final summary and rebuttal, to be delivered by the First speaker, for four minutes.

(FIRST PROPOSITION'S SUMMARY/REBUTTAL)

I thank the member for concluding the debate. Would the judges please complete their ballot.

**After collecting the Ballots,
Either invite the judges to make constructive comments, but
remind them that they are not to indicate which team has won
the debate.**

OR

**Announce which team won the debate and ask the Judges to
make their comments.**

**This phase depends upon the Debate Organizer – make sure
that you know what he/she wants you to do.**

At this point take the ballots to the statistics office. Then return to the room and prepare for the next debate.