

CALL FOR ENTRY SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition

- ensuring that science becomes part of our everyday dialogue

Attention: Debates and Science educators

We invite all schools with a keen interest in debating - but in this instance from a scientific stance - to enter the 2020 SAASTA National Schools Science Debates Competition.

The primary objective of the competition is to develop research, critical thinking and information literacy skills through researching and debating scientific topics. It also aims to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, technology and engineering in South Africa.

Who may enter?

Learners from grades 9 to 11 who are:

- ✱ interested in developing their scientific research and information literacy skills;
- ✱ critical thinkers; and
- ✱ willing to work as a team to present logical, clear arguments.

At least two of the learners must take science-related subjects at school.

How does it work?

SAASTA's National Schools Debates is multi-phase competition, starting at school level, through district and provincial levels to national level. Schools that run an internal intra-school debate with at least two teams will be given priority to enter a school team in a district level debate. Winning schools from the district level debate will go forward to a provincial competition. The winning school of each province at the provincial competition will then move on to the national competition that will be held in Gauteng.

The SAASTA Schools Debates structure is not based on proposition/opposition presentations, but allows debaters to engage with one another and move toward a common resolution. Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the provincial and national level debates is the mini-imbizos where learners get to interact with one another and share ideas through breakaway discussions and by making use of social media.

For more information, contact:
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Closing date for entries: 15 February 2020

District workshops and debates:
March - April 2020 (all provinces)

10 schools per province will be selected from district participants for the provincial competition.

Provincial competitions:

9 May (all provinces)

1 school per province will be selected to represent the province at the national final.

National final:
June 2020

The selection process

At the district workshops, teams will present opening, response and closing statement on the following debating topic:

"Science and technology are key to understanding climate change and responding to it. Climate change impacts many aspects of our lives, including health, access to clean water, energy, and food security. How can science and technology be used to respond to the harsh realities of climate change in South Africa?"

Guidelines on the topic, as well as additional research information, will be provided to interested schools who submit an entry form.

Interested?

To enter the competition each school must complete the entry form and submit it to debates@saasta.ac.za.

Also visit www.saasta.ac.za or check in on our Facebook page - SAASTA Debates - for more information.

The national winning team for 2020 will be awarded an all expenses paid science tour in South Africa.

