

# CALL FOR ENTRY

## SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition

- ensuring that science becomes part of our everyday dialogue

### Attention: Debates and Science educators

SAASTA presents an opportunity and invites participation for learners to debate high-level scientific topics on an online platform. To accommodate restrictions related to distance and physical interaction, the National Schools Science Debate competition 2021 cycle will be implemented through virtual submissions and an online platform.

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.

### How does it work?

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 is the mini-imbizos by means of which learners get to interact with one another and share ideas through breakaway discussions and by making use of social media.

### Phases of the competition

#### a) Online Registration and Entry Submission

Online registration will be opened to all schools, with there being no limitation to the number of schools per province. Schools will complete the online or manual registration form and submit to SAASTA before the closing date. Learners will prepare opening and closing statements of 2 minutes each in a video or voice note format and submit via WhatsApp or online before the closing date. Entries from districts will be adjudicated and the top 10 schools per province will progress to the provincial workshops and tournaments.

#### b) Provincial Workshop and Tournaments

The top 10 schools per province will attend an online workshop on the debating style, and then compete in the provincial tournaments. A new topic linked to the National Science Week theme will be provided to the learners to prepare accordingly for the tournament.

#### c) National Tournament

Provincial winners will compete at the National tournament for the title of the 2021 National School Science Debates champions.

A reversed data billing system or a zero-rated platform will be used to support participation by all schools.

Certificates will be awarded to all participants.

Educational prizes, trophies and medals will be awarded to winning teams at different levels of the competition.

### 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.

Each team consists of five learners. At least two of the learners must take science-related subjects at school.

To enter the competition each school must complete the entry form and submit it to [debates@saasta.ac.za](mailto:debates@saasta.ac.za) or complete the online entry form at:

<http://www.saasta.ac.za/competitions/national-schools-debates/saasta-national-schools-debates-entry-form-2021/>

Closing date for registration: **3 June 2021**

For more information, contact:

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## Important dates

	<u>Implementation phase</u>	<u>Mode of delivery</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Registration	Online	<b>3 May – 3 June 2021</b>
2	Phase one competition	Submissions to be done via WhatsApp or online	<b>21 June 2021</b>
3	Results of top 10 schools per province	Communication will be sent to schools	<b>5 July 2021</b>
4	Provincial workshops	Online	<b>6 - 13 August 2021</b>
5	Provincial tournament	Online	<b>3 - 10 September 2021</b>
6	National tournament	Online	<b>28 September 2021</b>

## The topic:

In order to participate in the first phase of the competition, teams must prepare and submit an opening and closing statement (as voice note or video) on the following topic:

### **4IR: Maximising the benefit of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa**

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) incorporates “technological developments that blur the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres.” It involves the integration of cyber-physical systems and includes the Internet of Things, big data, cloud computing, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI)-based systems. In South Africa, the Department of Science and Innovation’s 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation highlights the importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and acknowledges the significant impact it is expected to have on the way we work, our services, education as well as leisure. As with all technological revolutions, it comes with great benefits but also exposes new risks and potential for harm. In a country such as South Africa, grappling with challenges of poverty and inequality, will implementing 4IR technologies bring more benefits than harm to our society?

**Guidelines on the topic and additional research information, as well as details on how to submit the videos or voice notes will be provided to interested schools who submit an entry form.**

**Also visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za) or check in on our Facebook page - SAASTA Debates - for more information**

