

# 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. The first phase of the National Schools Science Debate competition in 2022 will be implemented through virtual submissions and an online training platform. The provincial competitions and national final will take place in person, providing travel and physical distancing regulations at the time allow.

The primary objectives of the competition are to develop research, critical thinking and information literacy skills through researching and debating scientific topics. It also aims to advance awareness of, appreciation for and engagement with 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 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 in person. A new topic 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 2022 National School Science Debates champions. SAASTA intends to host the national finals as an in-person event.

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: <https://www.saasta.ac.za/competitions/national-schools-debates/entry-form-2022/>

Closing date for registration: **8 April 2022**

Closing date for video/voice entries: **6 May 2022**

For more information, contact:

Lithakazi Masilela

Project Officer

Email: [debates@saasta.ac.za](mailto:debates@saasta.ac.za)

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## Important dates

	<u>Implementation phase</u>	<u>Mode of delivery</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Registration	Online	<b>1 March – 8 April 2022</b>
2	Phase one competition	Submissions to be done online	<b>6 May 2022</b>
3	Results of top 10 schools per province	Communication will be sent to schools	<b>6 June 2022</b>
4	Provincial workshops	Online	<b>6 August 2022</b>
5	Provincial tournament	In Person	<b>20, 27 August, 3 September 2022</b>
6	National tournament	In Person	<b>5 October 2022</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:

### **The Importance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Responding to Climate Change**

Extreme weather events and changes in climate patterns around the world are showing us the severity of the impact of climate change. Climate change is a complex problem. There is no simple solution and many people need to work together in an interconnected way to contribute to solutions. Scientists are conducting research to generate new knowledge and explore new ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and limit its negative impact. Politicians and policy-makers are developing policies to support solutions to climate change. The indigenous knowledge that is collected, developed and held by local indigenous communities is also important to develop local solutions to adapt and improve resilience to climate change. Considering your chosen debating perspective, how should indigenous knowledge systems be incorporated into climate science and solutions to climate change?

**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**

