

School Activity Guideline

Debate

Objectives

The Debates project seeks to present scientific information to the youth of South Africa in a manner that will stimulate them intellectually and encourage them to engage each other on science-related issues.

- Disseminate scientific information to high school learners in a manner that is both fun and interactive in order to stimulate interest;
- Facilitate dialogue between young people from all walks of life throughout the whole of South Africa on science, engineering and technology; and
- Promote science, engineering and technology-related careers to young people in South Africa with the hope that they will pursue careers in those fields.
- Develop research, teamwork and science communication skills.

The objective of this activity is to create platforms for school groups to debate in the following topics guided by NSW 2023 Theme

“Are the renewable energy sources the solution to South African energy crisis?”

OR

“Evidence-based scientific (modern) solution vs. the indigenous/traditional methods to eradicate hunger”.

Perspectives of science communication

1. Application and benefit

Science and technological developments should address the needs and challenges of greater society.

2. Economic

Research and development in science and technology requires significant financial investment but can lead to new technology that has larger economic benefits.

3. Socio-culture

Developments in science and technology are influenced by and impact cultural values and societal dynamics.

4. Political

Science developments and implementation of technologies takes place within a political environment.

Rules:

1. Number of teams in a debate – 2; the teams are known as the proposition and opposition.
 2. Each team will discuss two topics
 3. Number of members per team – 3 learners
 4. Number of speeches in a debate – 6; each student delivers one speech
 5. Speaking order and time limits – the proposition opens and closes the debate; there is no preparation time during the debate – at the conclusion of a speech, the following speaker is called forward to deliver the next speech in the debate
- First proposition speaker – 5 minutes
 - First opposition speaker – 5 minutes
 - Second proposition speaker – 5 minutes
 - Second opposition speaker – 5 minutes
 - Third proposition speaker – 5 minutes
 - Third opposition speaker – 5 minutes

Point System:

Each team will be awarded points for:

1. **Relevance** - speaking to the topic, using strong and persuasive arguments.
2. **Promptness** - quick responses to all questions.
3. **Fluency** - speaking readily without pauses.
4. **Engaging** of all members in the debate.
5. **Correct grammatical structures.**
6. **Vocabulary** - its richness and width.
7. **Pronunciation.**

Disqualification is for:

1. not speaking to the topic,
2. interrupting the debate by not asking questions or not answering them,
3. breaking the ethical code of the debate (using offensive language and colloquial slang).

Step 8: Reporting

School must collect the information about the activities they have done by completing a School Report Form (online) or download and e-mail.