

KMU English Debating Competition

Rules of Debate

1. This Debate is designed to provide a platform for KMU students to display their English speaking ability in a light-hearted competitive environment.
2. The competition will be held in week 14 between 6:00 to 8:00 pm Tuesday evening 24th May 2022. KMU First Historic Building B1 (Auditorium).
3. Ideally the debate is meant to be a humorous and fun experience rather than an intense nervous occasion: hence the topics of the debate are neither serious or controversial.
4. Participants in these debates will receive credit points awarded to their English classes, plus the winning team and runner-up team will receive respectively.
5. Topics for the debate are:
 1. It is ethical for Harry Potter to use his magic power for his own personal gain
 2. Without humans, Earth would be a boring place.
 3. It would be better to be rich with no friends than be poor with many friends.
 4. Cats are better than dogs.(If two teams would like to formulate their own topic that can be considered)

Teams should register early to claim their preferred topic ~email Alice at: r101121@kmu.edu.tw

6. There will be 8 debating teams with 3 speakers each ~ a total of 24 debaters. There will be 4 debates (each between two teams) with each debate taking 30 minutes.
7. An unbiased Chairman will manage the debate.
8. The first debate will commence at 6:10 pm, second at 6:40 pm, third 7:10 pm and fourth at 7:40 pm.
9. Each team must support their argument with persuasive logic and evidence (humorous or otherwise) to convince an intelligent but previously uninformed audience that it is more reasonable to believe the assertion than to disbelieve it.
10. Visual materials such as PowerPoint Presentations are NOT permissible. Speakers should rely on their English Rhetoric skills and their ability to draft a logic and persuasive argument.

11. For each debate there are two teams (the Affirmative and the Negative), each consisting of three speakers. Each speaker may speak for only 4 minutes. A reminder bell will ring at 3:30 and a final bell at the 4th minute mark.
12. Each team should contain three constructive speeches as well as rebuttal speeches to counter argue any points raised by the opposing team.
13. The dialogue should follow something like this: The Affirmative team gives the first constructive speech in which it puts forward a policy or proposal that they believe should be adopted. The first speaker of each team outlines their argument mentioning what the following two team members will talk about. The second and third speakers of each team not only have to continue with their argument, they should also counter argue any points raised by the previous speaker of the opposing team.

Affirmative	Negative
First speaker introduction & outline of reasons and benefits of proposal	Second speaker counter argument outline. Rebut first speaker arguments
Third speaker ~ counter defend & continue with affirmative argument	Fourth speaker ~ counter argue third speaker, continue with negative proposition
Fifth speaker ~ counter argue fourth speaker, defend proposition & conclude argument	Sixth speaker ~ counter argue fifth speaker, defend proposition & conclude argument

14. One speaker will speak at a time. The speaker at the lectern has the floor. No one should interrupt or interject when others are speaking.
15. Always speak calmly and politely to your opponent.
16. The judges will base their decision not so much on the material presented, but rather on the way in which the material is delivered, focusing on the speaker's ability to communicate effectively in English while presenting a persuasive and logical argument to support their team's position. Marks will be awarded for: (a) speaking fluency (b) lexical resourcefulness (vocabulary range) (c) correct grammar and (d) pronunciation clarity. (See attached speaking Rubric)
17. First and Second place for the Team debates will be based on the accumulated scores of individual speakers with bonus points given for outstanding ideas or issues mentioned within each team's argument.
18. There will be **three un-biased external judges** and their joint decision shall be final.
19. Prizes for the best individual speaker and runner-up will/may also be awarded.