

ELSA Legal Debates – Scoring Guidelines

I. QUALITY OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS

- To what extent did it appear that the team clearly established their position?
- Did it appear that the team directly addressed the motion?
- Were the team's arguments well structured?
- Did the team demonstrate solid logic and reasoning in their opening statement? (in regard to examples, facts and clarifying statements?)

II. QUALITY OF THE REBUTTALS

- How skilful was the team in responding directly to critique from the other team?
- How skilful was the team in individually responding to different lines of argument? (rather than perpetually re-emphasising one point?)
- How well did this team manage to point out the other side's weakness in argumentation?
- How effective was the team in using the time available for a rebuttal in light of the arguments presented by the opposing side?

III. QUALITY OF THE CLOSING STATEMENTS

- How skilful was the team in identifying the most substantive argument of their position?
- How effective was the team in allocating time covering arguments based on their relative importance?
- To what extent did the team use rebuttals to the opposition to further advance their own position?
- How skilful was the team in synthesising their arguments?

IV. QUALITY OF THE PRESENTATION

- To what extent did the team appear to be reasonable and realistic?
- To what extent did the team appear to be self-controlled and not manipulated by the other team?
- To what extent did the team appear to be trustworthy and to display a wider understanding of professional responsibility, including the limits of "fair play" in advocating the client's position?

V. TEAMWORK

- How effective were the debaters in working together as a team, providing mutual backup, and in sharing responsibility for presenting issues, ideas, and solutions?

- Were the team's statements and rebuttals within the given timeframe?

VI. GENERAL IMPRESSION

- To what extent did this team appear to be persuasive and convincing?
- To what extent was the team successful in getting points across?
- Were there any apparent flaws in the team's arguments?

VII. DEBATE ETHICS

- Did the team invent or infer self-serving material facts?
- Did the team and its coach or coaches follow relevant competition rules?
- Was the outcome achieved by stretching ethics?