DEBATE ADJUDICATOR’S SCRIPT

So that all teams have a consistent experience, please do not deviate from this script.

(1) Fill out the top of the Score Sheet. You will use a new sheet for each round.
(2) Welcome teams in a friendly way as they enter. Teams are often very nervous!
(3) Because they may be coming from other debates, teams will not always enter at the same time. As each team enters, ask it to double check that it is in the right room.
(4) When both teams are seated, affirmative to your left, negative to your right, proclaim: "Welcome to the Team Debate event of the World Scholar’s Cup!"
(5) Returning to your normal voice, instruct those in the room:

**TO STUDENTS:** “As soon as I have handed out the motion, you will have fifteen minutes to prepare. You may use your computers, tablets, books, and notes, but not cell phones. After these fifteen minutes, you must put away your computers. Each of you will then speak for up to five minutes. I will knock on the table once when you have one minute left and I will knock twice when you have reached five minutes. At that point, you may finish your sentence, but after that you must sit down. Please pay attention while others are speaking. You may pass notes, but you may not talk aloud. You will have sixty seconds between speakers to talk with your teammates.”

**TURN TO FACE THE AUDIENCE:** “Again, welcome. We are so glad to have you here. Out of respect to the teams, you may not leave or enter the room while a student is speaking, and you may not communicate with the teams at any time during the debate.”

(6) Hand out the debate motion and start the 15 minute timer. During the 15 minutes, you may switch places with a judge in another room if you foresee any conflicts of interest.
(7) After 15 minutes, instruct Speaker 1 from each team to write the names, student numbers, and team number of all three speakers on the Adjudicator’s Score Sheet.
(8) The speakers will speak in the order below:

1. Affirmative Speaker 1
2. Negative Speaker 1
3. Affirmative Speaker 2
4. Negative Speaker 2
5. Affirmative Speaker 3
6. Negative Speaker 3

*Some teams have only two members. On such teams, one speaker will speak twice. Please score him or her both times.*

(9) Call the speakers up one at a time. Instruct each speaker:

"Speaker [#] for the [Affirmative/Negative], you have five minutes to speak. Please stand, approach the stage, introduce yourself, and begin."

You or the timer should knock once when the speaker reaches four minutes. Knock twice when the speaker reaches five minutes. Then, stop the speaker at the end of his or her next sentence. If a speaker’s final sentence continues for more than 15 seconds, knock repeatedly on the table to bring him or her to a stop.

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1 Some tournaments may run one or more “express debates” in which teams have only 10 minutes to prepare and each student speaks for only 4 instead of 5 minutes. You will be advised if this is the case.
The next speaker has up to 60 seconds to prepare. During this time, score the student who just presented. Refer to the Debate Scoring Guidelines.

After all six speakers have taken their turns, score the two teams for teamwork. All members of a team receive the same teamwork score. The teamwork score is often used to ensure the winning team has the higher score.

Take time to weigh the debate’s outcome. Do not instantly proclaim a winner. You should not allow your own opinion on a motion to influence your decision. If there are other judges, you may step outside to discuss your decision; each of you may submit your own scores or you may share a single score sheet. The winning team should have the higher score. Adjust scores modestly if need be to achieve this. Ties are not allowed.

You should also select the single top speaker in each round and then decide whether or not to recommend him or her for a special showcase of the tournament’s top debaters. Do not publicly announce your selection of best speaker.

When you have made your decision, call the teams to order. Once both teams are seated, immediately announce the winning team.

"This round goes to the [Affirmative/Negative] team. Congratulations!"

You may give up to 60 seconds of positive feedback (praise) to each team. You may not give negative feedback. Please use your stopwatch; it is easy to lose track of time! When giving feedback, never use the word BUT. If you find yourself saying, “You did X very well, but...” you are about to give constructive criticism. Even if your intentions are good, first-time debaters will hear only the criticism. We repeat: do not go there. Experienced debate adjudicators often have the most trouble staying positive and not giving extensive feedback and criticism. If you are an experienced debate adjudicator, please pay extra attention to this rule: it applies to you too. There are no exceptions.

Experienced debate adjudicators often have the most trouble staying positive and not giving extensive feedback and criticism. If you are an experienced debate adjudicator, please pay extra attention to this rule: it applies to you too. There are no exceptions. Do not say, “It was a tough decision, but I gave it to the negative because...” Don’t say, “I would have argued...” You are not explaining why you decided the debate; you are praising what each team did well. Never offer your own opinion on the motion.

Before releasing teams, ask each if it knows where to go next. Write their destinations in the appropriate place on the score sheet. If there is another round, the winners go to one room, the non-winners to another. You will be provided a copy of the schedule.

Do not tell students their scores. Under no circumstances continue to discuss the debate with participants or with their teachers or parents—even if they ask you to. If they have concerns about this policy or about the debate, direct them to the organizers.

After you have finished judging all your debates, please deliver your score sheets to the designated drop box.

Also, to help with event timing, do not give any feedback after the final round of debate (usually the third) in each division.

When in doubt, ask for help.

In our experience, if you have adjudicated debates before, you are more likely to “freelance” and do as you are used to instead of as you are supposed to. No matter how much you may know about debate, you must not deviate from the script above or from the provided code of conduct.
DEBATE SCORING GUIDELINES

Manner (1-15)

Manner refers to presentation and appearance.

1. Clarity: How clearly did the participant speak? Do not penalize ESL/EFL students for accents.
2. Poise: Did she look at ease, using hand gestures confidently and making eye contact with both you and her opponents?
3. Dress and behavior: Did he dress properly? Did he treat his opponents and the adjudicator respectfully?
4. Use of notes: Did he use notes appropriately, or did he read an entire speech off cards or paper?

Method (1-15)

Method refers to the organization of the speech.

1. Structure: Did the participant clearly organize her ideas?
2. Logic: Did her ideas make sense? Did she spot structural or logical errors in her opponent’s argument?
3. Focus: Did her arguments support a central theme or thesis?

Material (1-15)

Material refers to the content of the speech.

1. Evidence: Did the participant find and make good use of information related to the motion?
2. Responsiveness: Did she foresee/address counterarguments and break down her opponent’s arguments?
3. Originality: Did she think outside of the box or did she rely on predictable, generic ideas?
4. Context: Did she provide enough context for you to understand her evidence?

Teamwork (1-10)

Teamwork refers to collaboration. All three teammates receive the same teamwork score.

1. Cohesiveness: Did the teammates’ speeches fit together to form an effective argument?
2. Speeches: Did teammates work well together between and during each speech?
3. Behavior: Did the team treat its opponents with respect? Did it listen carefully to their speeches?

Remember: Do not give all the speakers on a team the same score unless they are truly equal speakers.
ADJUDICATOR’S CODE OF CONDUCT

As an adjudicator for the World Scholar’s Cup, I will treat all participants with respect and kindness, and render all scores and decisions fairly and without bias. I further commit that I will:

- Not judge until I have attended a full WSC-specific training session.
- Never forget that many teams are debating for the first time.
- Never criticize a team.
- Never tell a team why it won or did not win.
- Never tell a team what it could have done differently.
- Never say, “If I had been debating the motion…”
- Never leave the room between speakers—even if you have a co-adjudicator to take your place. It is unacceptable.
- Always allow teams 60 seconds between speakers to prepare.
- Always speak to the teams in English.
- Always allow access to laptops, tablets, books, and the Internet during the prep period—but not cell phones.
- Always ask each team if it knows where it is going next.
- Always follow the provided script and guidelines.
- Never use the word “but” when giving feedback to a team.
- Never talk to a team (or teacher or parent) after the debate is over.
- Never give constructive criticism even when teams ask for it.

Name: ________________________________  Email: __________________________
Signature: ____________________________  Date: ___________________________
Affiliation (school or employer): ________________________________________