

# The Global Debate League 2015-16

## Why debate?

The Global Debate League gives students the opportunity to develop critical thinking, effective communication, and independent research and teamwork skills. The process of debate encourages a free and lively exchange of ideas with a healthy respect for different points of view, qualities that benefit individuals, societies and the global community.

## The Global Debate League 2015-16

We are running three debate leagues in 2015-16:

- Primary (ages 8 – 11)
- Lower Secondary (ages 11 – 14)
- Upper Secondary (ages 14 – 18)

## Debate teams

Each school may enter one team for each of the leagues (as appropriate to the age range of students in the school).

Each team can include up to 10 students.

Teams must commit to take an active part in three rounds of the debate league. Only the highest scoring teams will take part in the final.

Each team should nominate a captain who will be the main point of contact for the Global Debate League organisers. The captain should decide how the team will work together to contribute effectively in each round.

Each team should nominate a captain who will be responsible for organising the way the team takes part in each debate.

## Register your team

To register your team to take part in the Global Debate League click on the 'Register' button on the Global Debate League page of the Global Campus Online. You will need to complete the form with the following information:

- Which league are you entering? Primary / Lower Secondary / Upper Secondary
- Name and age of team captain (insert name of one student)
- Email address of team captain (This is the email address we will use to keep your team up to date with Debate news)
- Names and ages of team members (up to nine more names can be listed)
- Name and email address of teacher with responsibility for the debate team

## The debate schedule

	Motion and fixture list released	Debate opens	Debate closes	Feedback available
Round 1	16 <sup>th</sup> November	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	7 <sup>th</sup> December	18 <sup>th</sup> December
Round 2	11 <sup>th</sup> January	18 <sup>th</sup> January	1 <sup>st</sup> February	12 <sup>th</sup> February
Round 3	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	29 <sup>th</sup> February	14 <sup>th</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> March
Final	Format and date to be agreed with participating schools			

## How to take part

During each round of the debate each team needs to make five posts online as set out in the table below:

Post title	Purpose	When
1. Opening statement	To set out your case and highlight the main arguments you intend to present.	by end of Tuesday week 1
2. Main arguments	To explain fully each of your arguments using evidence and examples to convince and persuade.	by end of Thursday week 1
3. Rebuttal	To expose the weaknesses in the case being presented by the other side.	by end of Monday week 2
4. Right to reply	To respond to the rebuttal and defend your position.	by end of Sunday week 2
5. Closing statement	To summarise your case.	by end of Monday week 3

When the motion is released, check the fixture list online on the Global Campus to find out which side of the debate you will be arguing. Use the preparation week to research *both* sides of the argument and prepare your opening statement and main argument posts.

Organise how your team is going to work together to make the best possible contribution to the debate during the two weeks that it is open.

Use the debate workshop to get a clear understanding of what the judges are looking for in each type of post.

### Scoring and feedback

Each team will be able to score a maximum of 50 points in each round, 10 points for each post. The judges will be looking at the quality of your posts and thinking about the following things:

- How well does the post do what it is supposed to do (i.e. meet the purpose statement in the table above)?
- Is the post well-informed?
- Does the post demonstrate sound critical thinking?
- Does the post communicate well?
- Is there evidence of effective teamwork?

Every team will receive personalised feedback in the debate forum. The feedback will let you know what your team did well and how you could do even better in the next round.

### Awards

The teams that show the most improvement in their debating skills will be given a 'Great Improvement' team award.

The debate league table will show the top 10 scoring teams in each round.

The two teams that have the highest accumulated score after three rounds will be given a place in the final debate. Prizes for winning teams will be confirmed at a later date.