

Appendix A

B Ed (Hons) Educational Computing Debate

Debating Teams

The chair introduces the motion of the debate			
Team A	Speaker 1	Team B	Speaker 2
Team A	Speaker 3	Team B	Speaker 4
Debate open to the floor			
Team A	Speaker 6	Team B	Speaker 5
Motion put to vote			

Debating Procedure

Debating procedure	Process	Target date
1. The chair explains the debating procedures, rules and penalties. 2. The chair announces the motion of the debate.	Students will be referred to Web pages which contain the relevant information.	
3. Speaker 1 introduces Team A's stance on the motion.	Every member of Team A uses the distribution list to send Speaker 2 <u>three</u> arguments in support of the motion. Speaker 1 synthesises the arguments of his team together with his own and presents the <u>three most compelling</u> arguments to the mailing list.	
4. Speaker 2 introduces Team B's stance on the motion.	Every member of Team B uses the distribution list to send Speaker 2 <u>three</u> arguments in support of the motion. Speaker 2 synthesises the arguments of his team together with his own and presents the <u>three most compelling</u> arguments to the mailing list.	

<p>5. Speaker 3 responds to Team B's viewpoint and reiterates Team A's perspective on the motion.</p>	<p>Every team member of Team A uses the distribution list to send Speaker 3 a maximum of <u>three</u> responses to the opposition's three arguments. (For example, if a team member wishes to respond to all three of the opposition's arguments, s/he can only send in one response per argument.)</p> <p>Speaker 3 synthesises the responses of this team and his own and presents the <u>three most compelling</u> rebuttals of Team B's arguments together with a restatement of Team A's <u>three most compelling</u> arguments to the mailing list.</p>	
<p>6. Speaker 4 responds to Team A's viewpoint and reiterates Team B's perspective on the motion</p>	<p>Every team member of Team B uses the distribution list to send Speaker 4 a maximum of <u>three</u> responses to the opposition's three arguments. (For example, if a team member wishes to respond to all three of the opposition's arguments, s/he can only send in one response per argument.)</p> <p>Speaker 4 synthesises the responses of this team and his own and presents the <u>three most compelling</u> rebuttals of Team A's arguments together with a restatement of Team B's <u>three most compelling</u> arguments to the mailing list.</p>	
<p>7. The debate is opened to the floor during which time members of the audience may express their opinion on the motion.</p>	<p>Any member of the audience is now free to send messages to the mailing list to express their opinion on the motion of the debate, or to qualify or refute any of the previous speakers' arguments. The following rules apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to only <u>one issue per message</u> and indicate this issue clearly in the Subject Field of your email message. ▪ When responding to a previous speaker, clearly state the name (or number) of the speaker and state the speaker's viewpoint to which you are responding. <p>Ideally the six speakers should stay out of the discussion, but use this time to collect additional arguments.</p>	
<p>8. Speaker 5 summarises Team B's arguments by incorporating Team A's arguments as well as those from the floor.</p>	<p>Every team member of Team B summarises his/her team's arguments incorporating the arguments of the opposing team as well as those from the floor and sends this summary to Speaker 5 by using the distribution list.</p> <p>Speaker 5 synthesises the summaries of Team B and presents the <u>six most compelling</u> arguments, which should incorporate both the opposing team and the floor's arguments. This summary should be sent to the mailing list.</p>	

9. Speaker 6 summarises Team A's arguments by incorporating Team B's arguments as well as those from the floor.	<p>Every team member of Team A summarises his/her team's arguments incorporating the arguments of the opposing team as well as those from the floor and sends this summary to Speaker 6, using the distribution list.</p> <p>Speaker 6 synthesises the summaries of Team B and presents the <u>six most compelling</u> arguments, which should incorporate both the opposing team and the floor's arguments. This summary should be sent to the mailing list.</p>	
10. The motion of the debate is voted upon and the chair announces the winner.	<p>Every participant (students, guests, lurker) sends a private email to the chair (M.Mostert@ru.ac.za) with only the words "Yes" or "No" in the Subject line. The body of the message should be empty.</p> <p>The chair announces the winning team.</p>	

Communication Protocol for the Debate

Use this Internet technology	For this type of communication
Email	Private messages to chair or individual students
Distribution list (created within email client) should include lecturer and members of own debating team	"Confidential" messages to members of own debating team
Mailing list	Public forum for messages to everyone in the class (i.e. students, guests and lurkers).

Debating Rules

Since this debate is conducted at a distance, it is extremely important that participants adhere to the rules to ensure an effective process which are conducive to learning. The chair has the discretion to penalise non-compliance (e.g. by subtracting of marks) and will not enter into any correspondence with offenders <grin>.

1. No message may exceed 600 words, including quotations, but excluding references. When replying to a message, it is therefore not wise to include the entire original message in your response. Rather select only the relevant sentence or two.
2. The maximum number of arguments (three for speakers 1 to 4, and six for speakers 5 & 6) may not be exceeded. The purpose of these restrictions is to confine the debate to the most important issues. Although within each team each speaker has the responsibility to synthesise the contributions of his/her team members, the final posting of any team should be negotiated amongst members of that team (by using the distribution list). Every member of that team has to be convinced that the three (or six) arguments are really the most appealing arguments.
3. Due to the limited time for this debate, points of order will not be allowed. To compromise for this however, participants are allowed to email the chair privately if they feel that the chair has not responded to serious offences or misinformation. (We're trying to be democratic here!)