2016 NGS National Virtual Debating Program

for all Australian Independent Schools

Imagine having the ability to give your school debating teams a competition with other student teams from all over the country with all clashes being home debates. This 2016 initiative gives you that chance.

In 2015 the concept and mechanisms for a virtual debate program were trialled. Approximately 30 teams in 4 divisions from 19 schools took part in a two round trial. It was very successful and virtual debating using Video conferencing technology was proven to be conceptually and technically viable.

Structure of 2016 competition

- 4 divisions: Yr. 11 & 12, Yr. 9 &10, Yr. 7 & 8 and Yr. 5 & 6
- emphasis on formative activity in lower grades

The competition will be split into two main parts:

Trial selection – Semester 1

- Will attempt to give all eligible schools trial debates
- Performance used as guide for selection in Knockout draws

Knockout competition – Semester 2

- 8 or 16 team draws per division depending on Expression of Interest and capability
- Sponsor prizes
- Entry fee will be required

Sponsorship: Negotiations are currently being finalised for a major corporate sponsor for this event

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The anatomy of an online debate
1. Debating coordinators are given the draw and negotiate a suitable day and time for their clash.
2. Live link is made available to community spectators from both schools.
3. On the day of the debate, the teams gather in front of the VC device and join the allotted ZOOM conference.
4. The TiEDSC host announces the topic and flips a coin to assign sides.
5. Teams then have an hour to prepare their arguments. They mute their audio but leave their cameras running with both teams in clear view.
6. After an hour, a well-qualified adjudicator from a national pool connects to the conference, calls the teams to order, recaps debate rules and launches the debate.
7. Teams alternate through their speakers in normal fashion. At any stage both teams and the adjudicator are in view but the speaker view dominates the screen.
8. When the speakers have finished and after a short period of deliberation the adjudicator delivers his/her adjudication.
9. The whole event is recorded but made available to the schools involved only.

For full details on debates please see the 2016 Guide – [http://tinyurl.com/ttedsc-debating](http://tinyurl.com/ttedsc-debating)

Our adjudicators
Our adjudicators join us from all corners of the country in a fashion that only virtual technologies allow. State and national debating societies were approached to nominate adjudicators from their ranks. This achieved a pool of young, smart and experienced debating practitioners who provide excellent judgement and formative direction to the students involved.

Eligibility & expression of interest
Teams from all Australian independent schools are encouraged to enter if they meet the technical requirements. Not all schools are fortunate enough to have dedicated standards based video conference encoders (codec) setups so we will consider schools wishing to connect with desktop computer access if they can meet requirements for bandwidth, microphones, cameras, speakers and projection/screens. If limited spots exist, preference will be given to schools that can exhibit the best technical capability. Please see the “Eligibility to Program” section of the guide ([http://tinyurl.com/ttedsc-debating](http://tinyurl.com/ttedsc-debating)).

If you are interested in joining the 2016 program, please express your interest at the following link. You will be asked to nominate a primary contact person for your school, enter teams and describe your technical capability. Specifically, you will be asked:
- School’s Internet speed
- Whether your school has a video Conference Encoder (codec). If no, do you have an echo cancelling microphone, web cam (ZOOM & PAN) to enable a desktop connection.

Expression of interest
[http://tinyurl.com/2016interest](http://tinyurl.com/2016interest)