

****House debate format - Please refer to above links for basic understanding****

- Minimally, it would be a 3-on-3; with ability to increase (equally) per side, if more people want to participate with a limit of 8* in all participants. Instead of time, we'll have ****word limit****. Given below are the Participating groups, portfolios (Short forms), order of speaking the main argument, and word limit for the pair.

<u>Government Portfolios</u>	<u>Opposition Portfolios</u>	<u>Word limit</u>
(1) Prime Minister (PM)	(2) Leader of Opposition (LO)	500
(3) Home Minister (HM)	(4) Deputy Leader of Opposition (DO)	600
(..) Member of Government (MG)	(..) Member of Opposition (MO)	400
(6) Government Whip (GW)	(5) Opposition Whip (OW)	250

(a) The Government is the side that brings about the motion/bill/topic, and hence speaks in support of it. The PM will define the bill and premise in short (presenting the affirmative case). The LO will present why the bill is incorrect, improper or the like (presents the negative case) and answers to the arguments PM puts forth.

(b) HM upholds the bill by pulling across information that was not addressed by the LO and responds to the LO arguments. Additional points in support of the bill is addressed here. DO upholds the opposition's case by pulling across information that was not addressed in the HM and responds to the HM's arguments.

(c) This continues until both sides are out of members. Optionally, A Minority Stance can be announced here (By the Judge), and the debate moves into Zero Hour. Please read details about Zero Hour separately, given below.

(d) The OW first begins the round with an overview and the explicitly state reasons why Opposition must win and explicitly analyses certain arguments that had been dropped by the government throughout the debate. New arguments are not allowed.

(e) The GW lastly summarizes the round with an overview and responds to any new arguments brought up in the DO/MO Opp block and provides reasons for why the judge should vote affirmative. New arguments in the Government Rebuttal are not allowed. This would conclude Section 1 (And 2, if raised)

(f) The Debate then moves into Open house - where non-participating regular users of the sub can question individual participating members of the Government or Opposition (Think of them like Journalist questions). The Participants have the option of responding to a question, or to "Pass" them (Reply Pass). Each Participant is needed to answer a maximum of 3 questions with a word limit of 100 per response; and Each side only has to answer total of 8 questions Max - so they can be tactful in answering questions that gives them best scores. The Minority Stance group only needs to answer 2 questions in all, with a max of 2 per member. During Open house Government, Opposition, and Minority group should not ask questions to each other - if they do, it would a Rule violation.

(g) Points totalled from these 2/3 Sections of the Debate will determine the result of the debate. Scores would be determined by: ****Judge(s) Score + Audience voting + number of opponent members - Rule violations****, with different weight ages. Please refer to scoring for details. ****There is NO cross questioning.****

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****Parliamentary Points**** - These are points that participants can make to question or respond to members whom they don't directly/formally respond to.

- **Points of Information (POI)** are questions or statements the opposing side can direct at the person who has the floor. The speaker has an option to recognize (Reply) or decline (Reply "Pass") a POI. POIs cannot be made to rebuttals or Whips. You can't raise POI on a response to a POI - as it becomes cross-questioning.
- **Points of Order (POO)** are made when the speaker is introducing a new argument during a rebuttal speech (Whips), or grossly mischaracterizing arguments. During a Point of Order, Word limit is not considered, while the judge considers the point raised.
- **Points of Personal Privilege (PPP)** are made when the speaker makes offensive claims or personal attacks. This attracts severe negative points.

- **Points of Data/Source (POD)** are raised when opposing side seeks for data source of a claim made by the speaker. It can be only used ****once/side**** against middle speakers' arguments (HM, DO, MG, MO). Use this wisely.

<u>Parliamentary Point</u>	<u>Asker Word Limit</u>	<u>Responder Word Limit</u>
POI	50	100
POO	-	N.A
PPP	-	N.A
POD	50	250

How the course of events go:

****Please see this Image for a [Pictorial description for Order of presentation](<https://imgur.com/gallery/Sl6Bi>). ****

****There is NO cross questioning allowed. Turn based or raise POIs. You can't raise POI on a response to a POI (That becomes cross-questioning)****

- Scoring is done at the end.

****Minority Stance & Zero Hour**:**

- The zero hour is called for by non-participating observers/users (Team of 2) who wish to join in with their 3rd view. Basically, if anyone feels neither the government nor opposition, in their arguments, have addressed a paradigm/objective that they feel is relevant - They can call for this in RWD or separate comment chain within the debate (+ Direct messaging). You can notice the potential of this as soon as PM and LO have given their arguments or as late as MO has given his argument.
- Once the users have a team ready (team of 2), they intimate the Interlocutor/Judge that ****they would like to invoke Zero Hour as they have a minority stance.**** No Zero Hour can be initiated if the Whips

have presented their arguments. In special case(s), if a minority Stance is called for; when whips are within their presentation - they are allowed "Addendum/Additions" to their arguments to address the Minority stance.

- ****Minority Stance, is a faction of just 2 members - Minority Leader (ML) and Minority Whip (MW)**.** Once this faction asks for Zero Hour from the judge, they are to inform which user will be the ML and MW.
- The ML will present the argument, which is supposedly unique and different to Government and Opposition, defend it with supporting points. Parliamentary points can be raised here by Gov. and Opp.
- The MW will argue why the Minority Stance is needed with a summary; faults with the Government and Opposition's positions. No new points will be raised by this user.
- If Zero Hour is invoked, The GW and OW will not only have to address each other's stances and their weakness - they will address the Minority's as well. They can say why this has been included in their own position, or why it is unnecessary.

<u>Minority Stance - Zero Hour</u>	<u>Word Limit</u>
(#7) Minority Leader (ML)	700
(#8) Minority Whip (MW)	500
(#9) Opposition Whip (OW)	+150
(#10) Government Whip (GW)	+150

****Scoring and Results: ****

- ****There is NO cross questioning.** ** After an argument is raised, as per the norm, the member of the opposing side who is next in line is best placed to address the presented argument. POIs raised should be responded only once. Additional comment chain will be considered Cross Questioning, and cause negative points.
- ****Point weightage: Section 1(Judge(s) (80%) + Audience (20%)) + (Open House: Judges (~60%) + Audience (~40%) + number of opponent members - Rule violations.****

- Scoring per argument is done in the end. The judge will not interfere in the debating process, but can take part in Open House. Judge will score based on argument presentation, how the opponent's views are countered, POIs raised, POI responses, etc. Improper/unsatisfactory POIs and responses may attract negative points. The Judge will not have views of their own per se and will only be seeing it through participant lenses.
- Section 1 Scores are given out of 80, and upvotes/downvotes of audience scaled to 20. Any rule violations attract -5 for a POO, - 10 for PPP, -5 for indulging in Cross Questioning/response.
- Open House depends on how members respond to questions from the audience/users. Ideally, this is where Audience judges how the members have performed and respond to their questions. If there is observable vote brigading, the Judges quota of scores here will increase up to 90%.
- There is + for number of opponent members, as it is assumed your opponents will downvote your main arguments, while you will upvote your own team's. To somewhat balance it out, we have this rule.
- Judges will be internally scoring per section, while audience can modify their scores as the debate progresses. Audience score for Section 1 and 2 would be technically same, as their score for both will be considered only at the end of Open house.
- Rule Violations will calculated during Open House. Members have the freedom to retract the violating statement and modify accordingly to reduce their negative points.
- Acknowledged (by judge) POO, PPP will be awarded +5 points per catch, up to maximum of 4 per side. You can continue to raise POO, PPP if you deem fit; if the opponent does not retract their statement before scoring, then they'll lose points. Unsubstantiated/false raising of POO, PPP, will be ignored. Spam will cause negative points (-10)

Un-categorized Additional Points

1. The Government and Opposition can discuss within their faction through whisper or the like. Please don't have these discussions in the Debate's

comment section, as it would confuse everyone and make scoring difficult.

2. Deal Making - If the Government and Opposition want to "Make Deals" in secrecy ("You don't ask this question, and I won't ask this other one") they can. Again,) this is to be done in private whisper/direct message.
3. Make sure you upvote all of your own groups' posts and downvote opponent's at the end. Else you'd be giving away free points.
4. Don't make it chaotic by raising/spamming parliamentary points, random comments, etc.
5. If the audience/users ask questions during Section 1 - ignore them until Open house. You can use them as questions to address if you want during Open House.
6. Place any Salutations, vote of thanks and all that customary statements in separate highlighted/quoted paragraphs - these won't count for your word limit, but will give a good flow to your presentation.
7. Please Title your portfolio and respond in order - this will help with the flow, and that you're speaking in official capacity.
8. When the PM opens the Debate, the LO gives a reply to this. Any Parliamentary points are made accordingly to each of these arguments.
9. The next government speaker will write a new reply (preferable than commenting on Opposition's argument) in comments, to which the Opposition member can respond accordingly.
10. This will ensure (PM-LO) +PPs as one block of comments, (HM-DO) +PPs as another block of comments and so on.
11. Let the Whips wait for judge, to know if there will be Zero hour or not. While they can guess by looking around the thread if anyone is planning on it; it can only be confirmed by the judge. This is because Whips will need to address the Minority group, and this will help score points.
12. The minority group is not necessarily scored (unless if you guys want that); It is for users who want to participate without getting too much drawn in, as well as to spice things up.

13. While it is assumed that the OP/Debate creator is at least one of the interlocutors/Judges, it is not necessary it be that way every time. He can also be a non-scoring interlocutor, with Separate single or 3 member judge be appointed with prior declaration.

****Alright, we are done. Have fun*~****