

DANEIS Brief Overview - Rules of Parliamentary Debate with POIs

- 1) The debate will be presided over by Mr. or Madam Speaker.
- 2) The Government team (the side in favor) shall sit on the right hand side of the Speaker. The Opposition (the side against) shall sit on the left.
- 3) The speaking order will be as follows: the Prime Minister, followed by the Member of the Opposition, then the Minister of the Crown (second Government speaker) who is followed by the Leader of the Opposition (second Opposition speaker). Finally, the Prime Minister concludes the debate by delivering the Government's rebuttal.
- 4) Maximum speaking times are 5 minutes for the Prime Minister's first speech, 8 minutes for the Member of the Opposition's speech, 8 minutes for the Minister of the Crown's speech, and 8 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition's speech (the last 3 of which are for rebuttal). Finally, the Prime Minister closes the debate with a 3 minute rebuttal speech. There are no minimum times for speeches. A grace period of 30 seconds is allowed for all speeches, except the Prime Minister's rebuttal.
- 5) During the rebuttal speeches (i.e. the last 3 minutes of the Leader of the Opposition's speech and the entire 3 minutes of the Prime Minister's closing speech), members (debaters) may not bring up any new arguments or new evidence, except in direct refutation of material which has already been presented.
- 6) All remarks must be addressed to the Speaker of the House and not to anyone else. e.g. say "Mr. Speaker" not "Mr. Speaker, honorable judges". The member must address Mr. Speaker in his/her first sentence.
- 7) Other members of the House (the individual debaters) should be referred to by their title, specifically "the Prime Minister" or "the Minister of the Crown" on the Government side, and "the Member of the Opposition" or "the Leader of the Opposition" on the side of the Opposition. Such members of the House may also be referred to as "The Honorable Member" or "The Honorable Gentleman" or "The Honorable Lady". They may be referred to as he or she but never as "you".
- 8) Members will speak only when called upon by the Speaker, except for Points of Information.
- 9) When the other side is speaking, members may raise Points of Information by standing and silently catching the attention of the member speaking, or by standing and saying, "On a Point of Information" if he/she wishes.

10) When a Point of Information is raised, a member may accept it by saying "Accepted" or "Yes please" or "Go ahead" or "I'll take your point", reject it by saying "no thank you" or "declined", or defer it by saying "not now" or "in a moment" and taking it later.

11) After a Point of Information is accepted, the member offering the point should speak for no more than 15 seconds, briefly framing and asking a question which supports his case.

12) Once the question is asked, the member offering it should take his seat, and the member who has accepted the Point of Information should provide a brief response, rebuttal, or answer before continuing with his case.

13) Points of information should not be offered during the first minute of any speech, the final minute of the Member of the Opposition and Minister of the Crown's speeches, the final three minutes of the Leader of the Opposition's speech, and the entirety of the Prime Minister's final speech. The clock continues to run throughout the debate.

14) The Government members may introduce a plan for implementing the resolution if they wish to, but they are not required to do so. If they do propose a plan, they must introduce it during the Prime Minister's speech.

15) If, and only if, the Government introduces a plan, the Opposition may introduce a counterplan, but it is not required to do so. A counterplan is an alternative method of implementing the resolution which is significantly different from the Government plan and is demonstrably better than the Government plan. If the Opposition wants to introduce a counterplan, they must introduce it during the address of their first speaker.

16) Props (e.g. drawings, models) may not be used, and courtesy must be shown to all other members at all times. As with all DANEIS tournaments, it is strictly understood that teams may **not** consult any reference materials of any kind (electronic or otherwise) during their preparation time or during the actual debate. Parliamentary debating is extemporaneous debating.