# 2023 ESA Student Debate Guidelines

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) organizes the Student Debates every year at the Annual Meeting. Each year, the ESA-SAC Student Debates Subcommittee (SDS) works to generate three debate topics for six student teams to cover at the Annual Meeting. In addition to continuing the tradition of compelling student-led debates this year, our goal for this competition is for all participants to have the opportunity to produce a high-quality manuscript debating topics of general interest to ESA members. All teams will be published in the *Journal of Insect Science (JIS)*, as well as compete for $500 and a plaque for their team.

## Overall Theme: Addressing Emerging Issues in Entomology

**Topic 1: Should disclosure of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) usage in scientific writing always be required?**

Stance 1: Yes                    Stance 2: No

**Topic 2: Is it more important to prioritize honeybee or native pollinator health for long-term food security?**

Stance 1: Honey Bees            Stance 2: Native Pollinators

**Topic 3: Are government policies or public initiatives the best approach for effectively managing invasive species?**

Stance 1: Government Policy      Stance 2: Public Initiatives

## Debate Preparation:

*Signing Up*

To efficiently use the time allocated for the Student Debates at the Annual Meeting, the SDS is limited to accepting 6 teams of 3-5 students and one non-student team advisor (faculty, staff, postdoc, etc.) per team. Consequently, students are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Students may either form a team beforehand or sign up individually to be assigned a team and professional advisor.

- Option 1: To reserve a slot for your **team** you must email the SDS (esastudentdebates@gmail.com) with the following information:
    1. A list composed of 3 to 5 team members
    2. Name and contact information for your designated team leader (or spokesperson) who will be the primary contact for your team
    3. Name and contact information for your team advisor (include contact info in email)
    4. A list ranking your topic preferences (1st and 2nd choice)
    5. Completed release forms for all team members (last page of this document)
    6. Note if the team is willing to allow an interested student to join their team
        i. **Please note that priority may be given to ESA Student Debates teams that are willing to allow an interested student to join their team.**
- Option 2: To reserve a slot as an **individual** with the intention to join a team you must you must email the SDS  (esastudentdebates@gmail.com) with the following information:
    1. Provide your name and contact information

2. A list ranking your topic preferences (1st and 2nd choice)
3. A completed release form (last page of this document)
   i. **The SDS will then follow up with students about team assignments and professional advisor assignments.**

*Topic and Stance Assignments*

Once teams are formed, each is assigned a debate topic and stance. All communications between debate organizers (SDS) and the debate teams will go through the designated team leaders and must be sent to the Student Debate email (esastudentdebates@gmail.com). Teams may be assigned a topic that includes a stance (yes/no; X vs. Y) or an issue (pro/con). Up until the meeting, teams will develop arguments to support their assigned stance/issue on their respective debate topic. Teams must remember that they will be defending their stance, so they should be sure that arguments are defendable given the currently published science.

*Team Tasks Prior to Debates*

Prior to the meeting, teams will be expected to complete a series of tasks in preparation for the debates. Failure to provide requested materials by the deadlines outlined in the "**Important Dates"** schedule below can result in point reductions in the team's scores for the debates.

1) **Compile References (*due underline before the meeting*).** After topics and stances are assigned, each team will compile a list of no more than 40 references to support their assigned position. The list should include the following information in the header: your topic and all team member names and send this to the SDS email. Each team will document major points with references that pertain to their team's argument. In addition, references should incorporate articles from opposing arguments to aid with the defense of the debate stance. References must be supplied to the SDS at esastudentdebates@gmail.com by the due date and **cited using ESA guidelines for the *Journal of Insect Science* format** (see an example here). If there are any questions about references listed by the opposing team, you must send an email to SDS *AND* the opposing team's lead contact via email.

   **Restrictions on references** are as follows:

   ● While referencing a book, a specific chapter must be referenced and not the entire book. However, multiple chapters in a book can be included in a citation. Each team will be limited to 10 web-based citations and only the information on the page referenced will be usable (i.e., no downloadable files or accessed hyperlinks will be allowed).

   **Hyperlink Examples**

   Incorrect:

   www.usda.gov (too general)

   Appropriate:

   https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?co

   ntent=18487.wba

2) **Compose Team Stance Abstract (*due underline before the meeting*).** Several weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, each team will submit a stance abstract (250 words maximum), to the SDS. This abstract will provide a general introduction to the argument the team will be making, but not give away the details or specific arguments. Abstracts will be exchanged between sides

for comments. Advisors should review these abstracts before submission.

3) **Write a Team Stance Summary (*due *before* the meeting*).** Before the debates, each team will submit a summary (600 words maximum) of their position to SDS (which will not be circulated). **Please be sure that these summaries are publication worthy** (formatted for the *Journal of Insect Science,* author guidelines found [here](#)), as they serve as the first draft of the debate manuscript. After the debates, each team can edit their position summary for the compiled submission to the *Journal of Insect Science* created by the SDS.

4) **Prepare Team Statement Presentation (*due *before* the meeting*).** A few weeks prior to the debates, each team must send their team's statement slide presentation to the SDS for approval. This step is to ensure that debate teams have followed the formatting guidelines (outlined below in **Debates Program Instructions**) to limit audience bias towards teams based on visual impacts such as images and animations.

5) **Upload Team Statement Presentation (*due *at* the meeting).*** Upon arrival at the Annual Meeting, teams are required to upload their statement presentation in the Presentation Upload Room at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center *at least 24 hours* prior to the Student Debates. If teams experience travel issues that conflict with meeting this deadline, they are expected to notify the SDS as soon as possible.

## Debates Program Instructions
**Indicates a task completed solely by the SDS

**Introductory Remarks: 5 minutes (with PowerPoint)****

At the beginning of the debates, there will be a five-minute introductory presentation made by the ESA SAC Chair. The debate introduction will be an overview consisting of a list of the SDS members and judges, a preview of the debate topics with each team and their stance, an overview of the debate's program structure, and information regarding the Student Awards Ceremony where the debate award winners will be announced. Slides are required to be prepared using the slide presentation templates provided to the Chair by ESA for all SAC presentations at the Annual Meeting. *This is the only presentation in the Student Debates which is permitted to use images and animations if desired.*

**Unbiased Topic Introduction: 3 minutes (with PowerPoint)****

For each of the three topics, there will be a five-minute unbiased "introductory" presentation made by a member of the SDS. Presenters are required to follow the same presentation guidelines given to the debating team introductions provided below. Unbiased introduction presenters may provide either in-text citations or a reference list in the presented slides. The SDS member will also write a 600-word introduction summary for the debate topic prior to the event for use in the published manuscript.

**Important:** SDS members are responsible for uploading their presentations in the Presentation Upload Room at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center *at least 24 hours* prior to the Student Debates. If SDS members experience travel issues that conflict with meeting this deadline, they are expected to notify the SAC Chair as soon as possible.

**Team Statements (1 per team): 5 minutes (with PowerPoint)**

Each debate team will prepare a five-minute PowerPoint presentation. **Each presentation should have no more than two colors (including background and text) and be void of images or animations.** However, tables may be used if they are simply for organizing text. These restrictions

are designed to keep the focus of the debate on the topics, not on any emotional impact. Each team is limited to their 40-reference lists for their presentations. However, during the counterarguments, they may additionally utilize the opposing team's references. References must be cited in-text during the presentation with ESA-style formatting (e.g., Smith et al. 2010). Please include the references cited on a slide at the end of the presentation (although you do not need to spend time talking on this slide).

**These formal presentations are the only part of the debates where the speaker is required to stand at the podium**. For the rest of the time, participants may stand or sit at their tables with their teams when speaking. Teams should designate a member for giving their statement prior to the debate. Note that the designated speaker does not have to be the team leader.

**REMINDER:** Each team is responsible for uploading their presentations in the Presentation Upload Room at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center *at least 24 hours* prior to the Student Debates. If teams experience travel issues that conflict with meeting this deadline, they are expected to notify the SDS as soon as possible.

**Cross-examinations (1 per team): 2 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)**

The team conducting the cross-examination of the opposing team may ask questions. If needed, the opposing team being cross-examined may ask clarification questions such as "Can you repeat that?", "Can you clarify", "Can you define that term?". Remember that it will reflect poorly on your team if you interrupt each other at this time.

**Rebuttals (2 per team): 4 minutes (1st rebuttal) and then 6 minutes (2nd rebuttal)**

Use rebuttals to respond to questions/arguments, clarify your points and strengthen your argument. Rebuttals can and should be presented by more than one person from the same team. During your team's rebuttals, you may make statements to support your point or ask the other team questions, but they will be unable to respond until their team's rebuttal.

At this point, opposing teams are also permitted to interject with questions to ask the rebutting team. Interjected questions are to be relevant to the points being made by the rebutting team at the time of questioning. **To ask an interjecting question, the opposing team must first say "Pardon" to signal to the rebutting team that they have a question.** At that moment only, it is then up to the rebutting team whether to accept the opposing team's question. If the rebutting team does not acknowledge the opposing team's interruption, then the opposing team may not ask their question. If they do accept the question, the opposing team is not permitted to ask an additional question without using the same process, unless it's for a point of clarification such as "Can you repeat that?" or "Can you clarify?".

**Each team is required to accept at least one interjected question during either of their rebuttals, as well as make at least two attempts to ask the opposing team an interjected question during either of the other team's rebuttals.** Teams will not be penalized for not answering an interjected question if the opposing team fails to meet the required minimum number of interjected question attempts.

**Concluding Statements (1 per team): 2 minutes**

After the last rebuttal, each team will be granted 2 minutes to provide a final summary of their arguments for their topic stance. These summaries may be provided by one or more members of the team. At this time, teams are encouraged to make final remarks on discussions between the teams during the debates rather than relying solely on a prepared summary statement.

**Judge and Audience Questions: 10 minutes**

A microphone will be provided near the front of the room. Judges will ask any questions they have first followed by the general audience. Questions may be directed at either team or both teams. Anyone from a team may answer. To prevent a single audience member from taking up the entire time, audience members will be limited to a single question. If you are asked a question, please respond to that question only. Each team will have 1 minute to answer each question. Do not use the question-and-answer session to continue debating with the other team.

**Unbiased Topic Conclusions: 2 minutes\*\***

For each of the three topics, an SDS member will give an unbiased 2-minute summary of the debate topic and each of the team's stances to conclude each topic. SDS members may prepare these summaries based upon their unbiased introduction and the Teams' Stance Abstracts provided prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Timing of Presentations**

The moderators will time each section and stop you at the end of your allotted time – budget time wisely. Teams may keep track of time with cell phones or other devices if they are silent. ESA will provide a large digital timer with a countdown for teams' reference in each section of the debate. PowerPoint presentations will be timed by a moderator that will give indications of the remaining time (like a typical symposium talk). Going over your allotted time in any section is highly discouraged, and the judges may choose to penalize teams that go over time.

**Electronic Devices Policy**

Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) are allowed to be used during the debates. However, please silence all devices and use them in a professional, non-distracting manner.

# 2023 ESA Student Debates Outline

**Total time: 3 hours**

| 5 min | Introductory remarks | SAC Chair |
|---|---|---|
| **Topic 1** | | |
| 3 min | Unbiased introduction | SDS Member |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 1 |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 2 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 1 | Team 2 |
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 1 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 2 | Team 1 |

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|---|---|---|
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 2 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 1 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 2 |
| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 1 |
| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 2 |
| 10 min | Questions from judges + audience | Team 1 & Team 2 |
| 2 min | Unbiased conclusions | SDS Member |
| 5 min | *Break* | |
| **Topic 2** | | |
| 3 min | Unbiased introduction | SDS Member |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 3 |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 4 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 3 | Team 4 |
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 3 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 4 | Team 3 |
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 4 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 3 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 4 |
| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 3 |

| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 4 |
|---|---|---|
| 10 min | Questions from judges + audience | Team 3 & Team 4 |
| 2 min | Unbiased conclusions | SDS Member |
| 5 min | *Break* | |
| **Topic 3** | | |
| 3 min | Unbiased introduction | SDS Member |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 5 |
| 5 min | Team statement (at podium) | Team 6 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 5 | Team 6 |
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 5 |
| 2 min | Cross-examination of Team 6 | Team 5 |
| 4 min | First rebuttal | Team 6 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 5 |
| 6 min | Second rebuttal | Team 6 |
| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 5 |
| 2 min | Concluding statement | Team 6 |
| 10 min | Questions from judges + audience | Team 5 & Team 6 |
| 2 min | Unbiased conclusions | SDS Member |
| 5 min | Concluding remarks | SAC Chair |

## Important Dates:

As mentioned above, teams and SDS members are given a variety of tasks that must be completed both before and after the Annual Meeting. Deadlines for each task are listed below for both teams and SDS members. Groups responsible for each item are bolded for clarification. Failure to meet deadlines can result in point deductions for debate teams.

| Due Dates | Item |
|---|---|
| June 16, 2023 | **Teams:** Deadline to sign up and send a team or individual information to SDS. |
| June 19, 2023 | **SDS:** Team finalizations and topic/stance assignments are to be distributed. Topic/stance preferences indicated previously will be reviewed, but not guaranteed. |
| July 3, 2023 | **Teams:** Questions/ comments about debate topics must be submitted to SDS via email. |
| July 24, 2023 | **Teams:** Reference lists due to SDS (no more than 40) via email. All reference lists must contain the debate topic and debate team member names in the header. |
| August 21, 2023 | **Teams:** 250-word abstract (reviewed by the team advisor) of team topic and position due to the SDS. This should be a polished, complete abstract, not a rough draft or outline. This will be the abstract that the judges evaluate. All abstracts must contain the debate topic and team member names in the header. |
| September 4, 2023 | **Teams:** Questions pertaining to the opposing team's reference list due to SDS and the opposing team contact person via email. |
| September 18, 2023 | **Teams:** Answers to questions by opposing teams on the 250-word abstract due. |
| September 25, 2023 | **SDS:** 250-word unbiased introductions due from SDS introductory speakers. This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. All introductions must contain the debate topic and the author's name in the header. |
| October 9, 2023 | **Teams:** 600-word summary due to SDS. This should be reviewed by the team advisor and formatted for publication in the *Journal of Insect Science*. This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list. All documents must contain the debate topic and the team member names in the header.<br><br>**SDS:** 600-word summary due from SDS introductory speakers. Follow the same rules as debate teams for formatting. |
| October 23, 2023 | **Teams:** 5-minute PowerPoint presentation due to SDS. The presentation should be formatted as outlined above in the Debate Program Instructions. |

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| | **SDS:** 3-minute PowerPoint presentation due. The presentation should be formatted as outlined above in the Debate Program Instructions. |
| October 30, 2023 | **SDS:** Send comments on summaries to teams and SDS members for any additional revisions or updates. |
| November 5-8, 2023 | ESA Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MA. Presentations need to be uploaded at least 24 hours prior to the Student Debates. |
| January 31, 2024 | **Teams:** Final version of the 600-word debate summary due to SDS for submission to JIS (reviewed by advisor) with no more than 40 references. This should be your complete and final version for publication. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list.<br><br>**SDS:** Final version of the 600-word debate topic summaries due for submission to JIS. This should be your complete and final version for publication. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list. |

## Judging Rubric

Teams are evaluated on both their performance during the debates, as well as their prepared references and abstracts. Debate winners will be the team with the highest number of points for each topic. The overall debate winner will be the single team (of the six teams) that has the highest number of points. The final criteria are based on meeting submission deadlines and will be completed by the debate organizers.

| Criteria | Goals |
|---|---|
| Introduction (10 points) | The team adequately introduced their position and provided some basic information about the shortcomings of their opponent's position. The introduction did not simply list their references but instead used them to provide a clear and well-organized background supporting the team's stance. |
| Cross-examination (5 points) | The team asked insightful questions that either clarified important information based on topic introductions or laid the groundwork for arguments they made in rebuttals. They did not use cross-examination to argue with other teams (they asked questions – such as clarification questions on content). |
| Rebuttals (20 points) | Team members responded to arguments made by the other team instead of restating previous points. They clearly understood the other team's arguments and provided thoughtful responses. Individuals in the team worked well together. |
| Interjected Questions (5 points) | The team's interjected questions were relevant to the opposing team's rebuttal and not out of context. The questions tried to enhance discussion between the two teams. If only one attempt was made to ask an interjected question, then 2 points will |

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| | automatically be deducted. If no attempts are made, the team is awarded no points for this category. |
| Answers to Interjected Questions (5 points) | The team answered at least one interjected question from the opposing team. Answers to the opposing team's interjected questions fully addressed the question and were easily understood. If the team does not accept a question, then no points are awarded for this category. |
| Concluding Statement (5 points) | The team adequately concluded their position and addressed the shortcomings of their opponent's arguments. The summary is clear and relevant to points made between the teams during the debate. |
| Use of Time (5 points) | During the whole debate, the team made good use of their allotted time. They adhered to time limits and were not repetitive or disorganized. |
| Support of Literature (10 points) | The team used the literature to support points during their introduction and rebuttals. The team demonstrated familiarity with their own references and those of their opponents. Citations during the introduction were in proper ESA format. |
| Abstract (5 points) | The abstract provided by the team reflected their stance in the debate. It was well-organized and easy to understand. |
| Team Organization and Cohesiveness (5 pts) | The team worked together collaboratively during the debates. Team members behaved in a professional manner. |
| Responses to Judges & Audience (5 pts) | The teams clearly answered the questions asked and provided examples or referenced citations to support their response. Responses were well thought out and informative. |
| Meeting Deadlines | This will be completed by debate organizers. Failure to submit items by the deadline will result in a deduction of 2 points per late item per day or incomplete/incorrect submission. |
| **Total Points** | **80** |

Please feel free to contact SDS with any questions or concerns regarding the ESA Student Debates. Thank you for your interest, and good luck!

**The SAC Student Debate Subcommittee**:

Victoria Pickens, SAC Chair
Jacqueline Maille, SAC Vice Chair, NCB Representative

Jacob Pitt, P-IE Representative
Sara Salgado, SEB Representative
Jordon Twombly Ellis, SWB Representative
esastudentdebates@gmail.com

# Judging Score Card

**Debate Topic:**                               **Team:**

| Criteria | Notes | Points Awarded |
|---|---|---|
| **Introduction (10 points)** | | |
| **Cross-examination (5 points)** | | |
| **Rebuttals (20 points)** | | |
| **Interjected Questions (5 points)** | | |
| **Answers to Interjected Questions (5 points)** | | |
| **Concluding Statement (5 points)** | | |
| **Use of Time (5 points)** | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Support of Literature (10 points)** | | |
| **Abstract (5 points)** | | |
| **Team Organization and Cohesiveness (5 pts)** | | |
| **Responses to Judges & Audience (5 pts)** | | |
| **Meeting Deadlines** **Applied by debate organizers if applicable* | | |
| **Total Points Awarded (out of 80 points)** | | |

Additional Notes:

**Entomological Society of America Student Debates**

**Recording and Materials Release Form**

I authorize the Entomological Society of America (ESA) to record, copy, distribute or otherwise use photographs and video recordings of the Student Debates.

I understand and agree that:

• I will not receive payment or any other compensation in connection with this recording;

• ESA may publish and distribute copies of the images or videos in any format, including

but not limited to print publications and video streaming websites;

• I have had a chance to discuss this form with the ESA Student Affairs Committee and

have received complete answers to all my questions; and,

• I release ESA from any and all liability that may or could arise from the taking or use of these recordings and/or photographs.

**Name**: _____

**School:** _____

**Signature**: _____

**Date:** _____

**Email:** _____

**Phone:** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____

**State/Province/Region:** _____

**ZIP/Postal Code:** _____