

# Student Affairs Committee of The Entomological Society of America

## Student Debate 2021: Schedule, Instructions, and Rules

### Debate Preparation and Background:

The Student Affairs Committee organizes the Student Debates every year and looks forward to continuing the tradition of good, quality debates this year. One of the main goals of this competition is to produce a high-quality manuscript of general interest to the Entomological Society of America (ESA) published in the peer-review *Journal of Insect Science*. Teams must be committed to the completion of this manuscript, beyond the meeting in Denver.

The Student Debates Subcommittee (SDS) of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) randomly assigns the debate issues/stances to the first 6 teams that sign up to participate. In order to reserve a slot for your team you must, (1) submit a list composed of 3 to 5 team members (all of whom will be active participants), (2) include a designated team leader (or spokesperson) and (3) provide the name and contact information for your faculty advisor (include contact info in email). All communications between debate organizers and the debate teams will go through the designated team leaders and must be sent to the Student Debate email ([esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com)). Teams may be assigned with a topic that includes a stance (pro/con) or an issue. Teams debating issues will develop a list of what they think are the three most effective tools that science has currently available to solve the issue (as in the style of debates used the previous three years). The SDS will pick a tool from each team's list that will result in the most interesting debate, so choose your tools wisely, as any of the three could be chosen. These teams must remember that they will be defending their stance or assigned issue, so they should be sure that it is a defensible position given currently published science.

After issues and stances are selected for each of the 6 teams, each team will compile a list of no more than 40 references to support your assigned position. Please, include also in this list the following information in the header: your topic or issue 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 the opposing argument to aid with the defense of the debate stance. References must be supplied to the SDS at [esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com) by the due date and cited using ESA guidelines for *Journal of Insect Science* format (see an example [here](#) under the "*Journal of Insect Science* Instructions for Authors' hyperlink). 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?content=18487.wba>

### Main Points:

Please note there are two debates summaries needed **before** the debates (See deadlines below):

1. Several weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, each team will submit a topic/position summary, not to exceed 250 words, to the SDS. This summary will provide a general impression of the argument the team will be making, but not to give away all of the details or arguments. Summaries will be exchanged between sides for comments. **Teams should have these summaries reviewed by their faculty advisor before submission.**
2. 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*, found [here](#)), as they serve as the first draft of the debate manuscript. After the debates, each team will have the opportunity to edit their position summary which will be compiled by SDS for submission to the *Journal of Insect Science*.

Feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have. Thank you in advance for participating in the 2021 student debates!

## Debates Program Instructions

### Unbiased Introduction: 5 minutes (with PowerPoint)

For each of the three topics, there will be a five-minute unbiased “introductory” presentation made by another individual. Follow the same presentation guidelines given to the debating team introductions (see below). Unbiased introduction presenters should provide either in-text citations or a reference list (but you may not if you choose to do so) in the PowerPoint. The introductory team/individual will also write an introduction summary similar in length to the debate teams.

### Position A/Pro Team: 7 minute statement (with PowerPoint)

Each debating team will prepare a seven-minute PowerPoint presentation. Each presentation should have no more than two colors (including background and text) and is **without images or**

**animations.** However, tables may be used as 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 counter arguments, they may rely on the opposing team's references. References must be cited in-text during the presentation with ESA-style formatting (eg. Smith et al. 2010). Please include a reference cited slide at the end of the presentation to be left up during the cross examination by the other team (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.

**IMPORTANT:** Each team is responsible for uploading their presentation into the ESA Confex system by the deadline!

**Cross examination by Position B/Con Team: 3 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)**

The team conducting the cross examining 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.

**Position B/Con Team: 7-minute statement (with PowerPoint)**

**Cross-examination by Position A/Pro Team: 3 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)**

**Position B/Con Team rebuttal: 3 minutes**

**Position A/Pro Team rebuttal: 3 minutes**

**Position B/Con Team rebuttal: 3 minutes**

**Position A/Pro Team rebuttal: 3 minutes**

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 rebuttals, you may make statements to support your point or ask the other team questions, but they will be unable to respond until their rebuttal. Similarly, if your team is asked a question during rebuttals, do not answer until your rebuttal period.

**Timing of presentations**

The moderators will time each section and you will be stopped shortly after you run out of time – budget time wisely. Teams may keep track of time with cell phones or other devices as long as they are silent. ESA will provide a large digital timer with a countdown for rebuttals and cross examinations. PowerPoint presentations will be timed by a moderator that will give indications of the remaining time (like a typical symposium talk). Please do not go over time as the judges may choose to penalize teams that go over time.

**Questions: 10 minutes for judges and for audience members**

A microphone will be provided near the front of the room. Judges will ask any questions they have first, and then the general audience will be invited to ask questions. 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, each person in line may ask one question and then sit down. If you are asked a question, please respond to that question only. Do not use the question-and-answer session to continue debating the other team.

**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.

**Evaluation of the Debates**

A panel of judges will evaluate each team’s arguments in the actual debates and choose a “winner”. There will be a winner of each pair of debates and an overall best debate team. The winning teams will be recognized at the ESA Student Awards Session with a plaque for the team and certificates for all team members. The best overall debate team wins a \$500 cash prize and a trophy for their team. In addition to evaluation by the judges, all teams will be evaluated by the debate organizers based on how well they followed the debate rules and guidelines provided by the organizers in this document. The following table includes areas of assessment, but additional categories may be included. Be sure to submit work in a timely and professional manner.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
Reference Lists	Submission by deadline
Total Number of Sources (peer reviewed or other)	Guidelines followed
Format (ESA Style for JIS)	Guidelines followed

250 Word Summary	Submission by deadline
Word Limit	Guidelines followed
PowerPoint Presentation	Submission by deadline and format followed (colors/graphics)
Manuscript	Complete, timely, professional

The rubric used by the judges is provided at the end of this document.

## **Recording of the Debates**

The debates will be recorded. A permission release form, found at the end of this document, must be filled out and signed by each member of the team (one form per person) and returned to the Student Debate Subcommittee. Forms must be submitted electronically to [esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com) before the team will be considered an official debate team.

## Important Dates:

Due Dates	Item
July 1, 2021	Deadline to sign up and send team information to SDS
July 5, 2021	Teams will be informed of which topic/position they are assigned. Topic/position preferences indicated by teams and emailed to SDS will be reviewed, but not guaranteed.
July 20, 2021	Questions/ comments about debate topics must be submitted to SDS via email
August 23, 2021	Reference lists due to SDS (no more than 40) via email (Debating teams only). All reference lists must contain the debate topic and debate team member names in the header.
September 4, 2021	250-word summary (reviewed by the faculty advisor) of topic and position due to the SDS. This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. This will be the abstract that the judges evaluate. All summaries must contain in the header both the debate topic and team member names.
September 13, 2021	Questions pertaining to the opposing team's reference list due to SDS and opposing team contact person via email.
September 18, 2021	Clarifications by opposing teams on the 250-word summaries must be voiced by this date.
September 30, 2021	250-word unbiased introductions due from introductory speakers (reviewed by the faculty advisor). This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. All introductions must contain in the header both the debate topic and the writer's name.
October 15, 2021	600-word summary due to SDS (All teams and unbiased introductions). This should be reviewed by a faculty advisor and formatted for publication in the <i>Journal of Insect Science</i> . 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 in the header the debate topic and the team member names.
October 22, 2021	7 minute PowerPoint presentation due to SDS (Debating teams); 5 minute PowerPoint presentation due to SDS (Unbiased Introduction presenters).
October 23, 2021	Comments on the summary due by SDS (organizers will send to the debate teams and to the unbiased introduction speakers any additional revisions or updates).
October 31, 2021	PowerPoint presentation online upload due through the ESA Annual Meeting website (All teams and unbiased introductions).
October 31 to November 3, 2021	ESA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado
January 31, 2022	Final version of the 600-word debate summary due to SDS for submission to JIS (reviewed by faculty advisor) with no more than 30 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.

# ESA Student Debates 2021

**Debate Title: Transforming Entomology to Adapt to Global Concerns**

## **Debate Topics:**

**Topic 1: Non-native insect introduction is an ethical approach for counteracting proliferation and overpopulation of consumers.**

Stance: Pro

Stance: Con

**Topics 2: What is the best technology to control undesirable insect pests in urban and agricultural settings?**

Stance: Volatile organic compounds (VOC)

Stance: Chemical control

**Topic 3: Compared to other solutions, like plant-based diets, insect farming is the best method to address rising human global food and nutrient supply demands.**

Stance: Pro

Stance: Con

Thank you for your interest in ESA Student Debates and good luck!

The SAC Student Debate Subcommittee:

Patricia Prade, SAC Chair

Raman Sandhi, SAC Vice Chair

Victoria Pickens

Katherine Arnold

Sarah Elzay

[esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com)

## Judging Rubric

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 is based on meeting submission deadlines and will be completed by the debate organizers.

Criteria	Goals
Introduction (20 points)	The team adequately introduced their position, as well as provided some basic information about the shortcomings of their opponent's position. The introduction was clear, easy to understand, and well organized.
Cross examination (10 points)	The team asked insightful questions that either clarified important information or laid groundwork for arguments they made in rebuttals. They did not use cross examination to argue with other team (they asked questions – such as clarification questions on content).
Rebuttals (20 points)	Teams responded to arguments made by the other team instead of restating previous points. They showed a clear understanding of the other team's arguments and provided thoughtful responses. Individuals in the team worked well together.
Use of Time (5 points)	During the whole debate, the team made a 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.
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 & cohesiveness (5 pts)	The team worked together collaboratively during the debates. Team members behaved in a professional manner.
Response to questions from 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 up to 2 points per late item.
Total Points	<b>80</b>

**Judging Form**

**Debate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
Introduction (20 points)		
Cross examination (10 points)		
Rebuttals (20 points)		
Use of Time (5 points)		
Support of Literature (10 points)		
Abstract (5 points)		
Team organization & cohesiveness (5 pts)		
Response to questions from judges & audience (5 pts)		
Meeting deadlines		
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>80</b>	

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_