

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Student Debate 2017: 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 ESA published in *American Entomologist*. Teams must be committed to the completion of this manuscript, beyond the meeting in Denver. Feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have, and thank you in advance for participating in the 2017 Student Debates.

Signing Up and Topic Assignments:

The Student Debates Subcommittee (SDS) of the Student Affairs Committee randomly assigns the debate issues to the first 6 teams that sign up to participate. **To reserve a slot for your team, send a list of 4-5 team members, including a designated team leader (or spokesperson) and a faculty advisor (include contact info).** All communications between debate organizers and the teams will go through the designated team leaders and must be sent to the debate email (esastudentdebates@gmail.com). Teams may be assigned a topic and a stance (pro or con), or assigned 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). These teams must remember that they will be defending one of these tools as the most effective tool currently known to science, so they should be sure that any of the three tools you select is a defensible position given currently published science. 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.

The SDS will also randomly assign debate unbiased introductions to the first three teams or individuals who sign up to participate. **To reserve an introduction slot, email your name and contact information to the debate email esastudentdebates@gmail.com.** In the event a team or individual signs up to deliver an unbiased introduction is from the same school as a team also debating, teams or individuals presenting unbiased introductions will be assigned different debate topics to ensure fairness.

References:

After tools and stances are selected for each of the 6 teams, teams and introduction presenters will develop a list of no more than 40 references to support their assigned position and send lists to the SDS. Each team will document major points with references that pertain to their team's argument. References must be supplied to the SDS at esastudentdebates@gmail.com by the due date and cited using ESA format: (http://www.entsoc.org/pubs/publish/style/#References_Cited). 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).
- Inappropriate: www.usda.gov (too general)
- Appropriate: www.ars.usda.gov/research/projects/projects.htm?ACCN_NO=404969

Summaries:

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

1. Several weeks prior to the national meeting, each team will submit a topic/position summary, not to exceed 250 words, to the SDS. This summary is meant to give 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 must have these summaries reviewed by their faculty advisor before submission.** Introduction presenters are not required to submit a 250 word summary.
2. Before the debates, each team and introduction presenter will submit a 600-word summary of their position to SDS, which will not be circulated. **Please be sure that these summaries are publication worthy** and formatted for *American Entomologist*; 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 *American Entomologist*.

Debates Program Instructions

Unbiased Intro: 5 minutes (with PowerPoint)

For each of the three topics, there will be a five-minute unbiased introduction made by another team or individual. This team or individual follows the same presentation guidelines given to the debating team introductions (see below). However, unbiased introduction presenters are not required to provide in-text citations or a reference list (but you may if you choose to do so) in the PowerPoint.

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, black and white are considered colors in this case) 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 list 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 references cited slide at the end of the presentation (although you do not need to spend time on this slide) to be left up during the cross examination by the other team.

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 event, 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 Con team: 3 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)

During cross examination, more than one person can ask questions. However, remember that it will reflect poorly on your team if you interrupt each other. The other team may not respond during this time, so use your time well.

Con team: 7 minute statement (with PowerPoint)

Cross-examination by Pro team: 3 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)

Con team rebuttal: 3 minutes

Use rebuttals to respond to arguments and clarify your points. Rebuttals can (and should) be presented by more than one person from the same team. During rebuttals, you may 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.

Pro team rebuttal: 3 minutes

Con team rebuttal: 3 minutes

Pro team rebuttal: 3 minutes

Timing of presentations

The moderators will time each section and you will be stopped shortly after you run out of time – budget it 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, 10 minutes for audience members

A microphone will be provided near the front of the room. Judges will ask any questions they have for 10 minutes. If the time runs out or the judges have no further questions, the general audience will be invited to ask questions for 10 minutes. 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 promptly respond to the question only. Do not use the question and answer session to continue debating the other team. In the case of a question intended to be answered by both teams, be mindful of the other team's 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.

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 debate topic 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.

Subject	Assessment Criteria
Reference Lists	Submission by deadline
Total number and sources (peer reviewed or other)	Guidelines followed
Format (ESA Style)	Guidelines followed
250 Word Summary	Submission by deadline
Word limit	Guidelines followed
PowerPoint Presentation	Submission by deadline Format (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 electronically (ESASStudentDebates@gmail.com) before the team will be considered an official debate team.

Important Dates:

06/01/2017 Deadline to sign up for the debates

06/05/2017 Teams will be informed of which debate they are assigned

06/19/2017 Submit top 3 positions on topic email to SDS (for teams assigned the "tool" format)

06/26/2017 Teams will receive final stances from SDS

07/10/2017 Question/Comments about debate topics must be submitted to SDS via email

07/31/2017 Reference lists due to SDS via email (Debating teams only)

08/21/2017 Questions pertaining to opposing team's reference list must be voiced to SDS and opposing team contact person via email (Debating teams only)

09/04/2017 250 word summary (Reviewed by the faculty advisor!) of topic and position due to SDS (Debating teams only). **This should be a polished, complete summary (not a "rough draft" or outline). This will be the abstract that the judges evaluate (see the scoring rubric).**

09/18/2017 Clarifications by opposing teams on 250 word summaries must be voiced (Debating teams only)

10/16/2017 250 word, unbiased introduction due to SDS (**Reviewed by the faculty advisor!**) (Unbiased introduction teams only). **This should be a polished, complete summary (not a "rough draft" or outline).**

10/30/2017 7 minute power point presentation due to SDS (Debating teams); 5 minute power point presentation due to SDS (Unbiased introduction teams)

11/05/2017 PowerPoint presentation online upload due through the ESA Annual Meeting website (All teams).

11/05/2017 Preliminary 600 word debate summaries (**Reviewed by the faculty advisor!**) due to SDS (All teams) **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 (following ESA style guidelines).**

11/5/2017 – 11/8/2017 ESA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO

01/22/2018 Final 600 word debate summaries (**Reviewed by the faculty advisor!**) due to SDS for edits and submission to American Entomologist (Restricted to 600 words and 15 references) (All teams). **This should be your complete, final version for publication. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list (following ESA style guidelines).**

ESA Student Debates 2017

"The Anthropocene: Implications for Arthropods and Biodiversity"

Debate Topics:

What is the most important threat to global arthropod biodiversity?

What is the most urgent and feasible use for CRISPR/Cas9 in Entomology?

What is the best way to increase beneficial insect diversity in urban areas?

Thank you for your interest in ESA student debates and good luck!!

The SAC Student Debate Subcommittee:

Alix Whitener, SAC chair

Casey Parker, SAC vice chair

Lina Bernaola

Carlos Esquivel Palma

Josiah Gantz

Jocelyn Holt

Emily Justus

esastudentdebates@gmail.com

Judging Rubric

In each debate, the team with the highest number of points will be declared the winner. The overall winner will be the single team with the highest number of points overall. The final criteria (meeting submission deadlines) 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).
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.
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.
Responses to Questions (<i>ONLY if both teams are asked questions</i>) (10 points)	The team responded clearly and thoughtfully to questions asked. They were knowledgeable of their topic and answered professionally.
Total	

Judging Form**Debate: _____ Team:**

In each debate, the team with the highest number of points will be declared the winner. The overall winner will be the single team with the highest number of points overall. The final criteria (meeting submission deadlines) will be completed by the debate organizers.

Criteria	Notes
Introduction (20 points)	
Cross examination (10 points)	
Rebuttals (20 points)	
Use of time (5 points)	
Support of literature (10 points)	
Abstract (5 points)	
Meeting deadlines	
Responses to Questions (<i>ONLY if both teams are asked questions</i>) (10 points)	
Total	---

**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: _____