

Speaker's Duties

1. Define the resolution, send it to the president for approval. Then send it to the debaters at least a week before the debate.
2. At the debate announce from the podium: Good evening and welcome to the Toronto Debating Society for (announce date). Tonight's debate is on the resolution ... Announce and define the resolution. Note: Not every word or phrase in the resolution must be defined, just those that may seem ambiguous.
3. The prime Minister (PM) and the leader of the Opposition (LO) will have 7 minutes to speak to the topic, whereas seconders will have 5 minutes each. Summations last 2 minutes followed by 5 minute floor participation and adjudicator's speech for 7 minutes. Each debater will be given a warning bell when one minute remains in the time.
4. The Prime Minister will now speak for 7 minutes and present the government's case. Introduce the PM.
5. The Leader of the Opposition will now speak for 7 minutes, rebutting the government's arguments and making the opposition's case. Introduce the LO.
6. The member of government (MG) will now speak for 5 minutes rebutting the LO and substantiating the PM's points. Introduce MG.
7. The member of the opposition (MO) will now speak for 5 minutes rebutting the MG and substantiating the LO. Introduce the MO.
8. The LO will now present a 2 minute summation, followed by the PM's summation. No new evidence may be presented at this time.
9. The adjudicator will leave the room and the audience is invited to vote. Remind the audience to set aside its own views on the topic and vote for the side it felt was most persuasive. Remember that the debaters' positions do not necessarily reflect their own views. Invite the audience to comment on the debate (not the issue, the debate) for a period of 1 minute. Remind the timekeeper to **persistently** ring the bell when any speaker (including the adjudicator) exceeds their time limit.
10. Close the remarks down when the adjudicator returns. Introduce the adjudicators. The adjudicators will give you in writing the winning side and the best debater. The adjudicators will announce the decisions if they finish within 7 minutes. **Otherwise you must announce that they leave the podium and you will announce the results.** This last point is crucial as many adjudicators feel exempt from time limits. Be as forceful as necessary. Remember that you are the debate marshall with complete authority so don't hesitate to use it.
11. Thank the debaters and the audience and invite the president back to the podium.