Oppie tong af
on the tip of your tongue



DEBAT(E) SYLLABUS

2027

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OPPIE TONG AF/ ON THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE DEBAT(E)

This project aims to build an Afrikaans and English competition programme that helps individuals grow into confident leaders who can communicate clearly and effectively in front of any audience.

The competition programme creates opportunities for the youth to respectfully oppose ideas and present critical and analytical ideas with confidence, logic and poise. At its core, the initiative values accessibility and sustainability, ensuring that growth opportunities are available to everyone and that the impact lasts well beyond the program itself. In a constantly changing world, we recognize the importance of providing a safe space where students can develop not only their speaking skills but also a deeper sense of empathy and passion for the issues that matter most to them. Speak to change!

Along with personal development, this project also gives schools a chance to stand out as inclusive, forwardthinking communities that nurture leadership and lifelong learning. That is why we offer a cutting-edge, interactive online platform where technology is second nature in today's world. This program prepares young people to collaborate effectively as a team and equip them with the skills needed to thrive in the future of online business. Although debates are grounded in facts and often appear black and white, they are not won through excessive research or the sheer number of sources cited. Instead, success in debate depends on how effectively research is integrated into the debate setting using logic, clarity and integrity to communicate with opponents and strengthen arguments.

Debat(E) Categories and Competition

This is an **Afrikaans** and **English** Debate Competition.

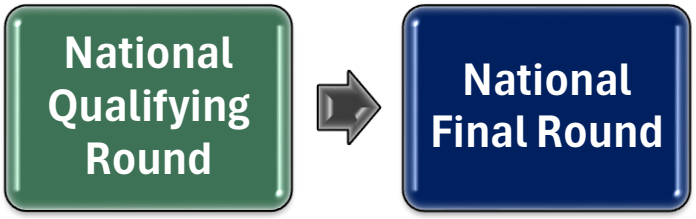
Debate **teams consist out of two speakers**. Teams must consist of students from the same grade level. Team members should remain the same throughout the competition. Teams will compete in the following categories:

- Grade 6-7
- Grade 8-9
- Grade 10-12

Senior Individual debates are open exclusively to Grade 10-12 students.

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The competition consists of a National Qualifying Round and a National Final Round. The National Qualifying Round will be hosted on a live online platform. We regret that no team or individual can be added to a program without the full entry payment for that round. The debating teams or individuals invited to the next round will be announced on the *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue* website under the Debat(e) tab after the competition concludes. The teams or individuals with the best scores will move on to the next round. The Annual National Final will take place in Gauteng as an in-person event, bringing together participants for a live, face-to-face competition.



Should a team or individual be unable to participate on the date indicated on the programme, it will be their responsibility to arrange for a replacement to compete in their place.

Debat(E) Competition Entries and Fees

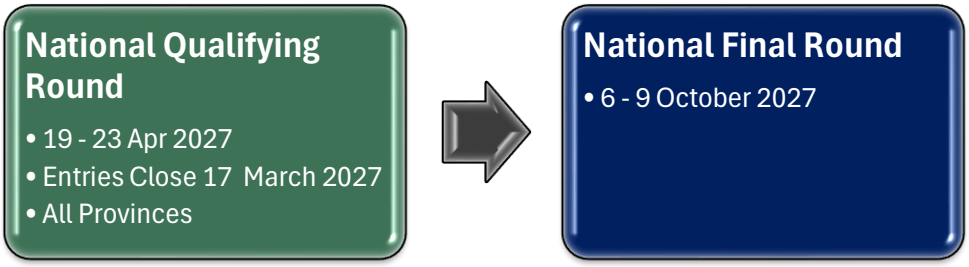
All entries are done and paid for on the *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue* website under the Debat(E) tab.

- **National Qualifying Round** Entry **per Debating Team** per Category: **R 650.00**
- **National Qualifying Round** Entry **per Senior Individual Debating** Category: **R 550.00**

An admin fee of R70.00 will be charged.

No fees will be charged for the Annual, In-Person, National Final event in Gauteng.

Debat(E) Competition Dates



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Debat(E) Topics

Teams and Individuals will have two weeks (14 days) to prepare for their debates before the competition begins. Debate topics for each category will be published on the *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue* website under the Debat(E) tab.

Participants will be divided into proponents (supporting the motion) **and opponents** (challenging the motion) **in the session where they are scheduled to debate.** Participants must come prepared, as they will only draw their sides at the start of the session, with no extra time allowed for preparation. **Participants must therefore be able to debate either side, for and against the motion.**

Debat(E) Outline (Teams)

This Section Outline explains how the debate will proceed.

Participants will join an online session where they will draw the side they are required to debate.

Phase 1- Topic Analysis			
		Grade 6-7	**Grade 8-9 and Grade 10-12**
Proponent 1	Analyse Key Concepts	**1 min**	**2 min**
Opponent 1	Analyse Key Concepts	**1 min**	**2 min**
Open Discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Analysis. Proponent 1 and Opponent 1 will lead the discussion, while other team members may provide brief support without taking control of the conversation.	**2 min**	**3 min**

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Phase 2- Constructive Speeches and Open Discussions			
		Grade 6-7	**Grade 8-9 and Grade 10-12**
Proponent 1	Present **TWO** arguments	**2 min**	**3.5 min**
Open Discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Arguments. Proponent 1 and Opponent 1 will lead the discussion, while other team members may provide brief support without taking control of the conversation.	**2 min**	**3 min**
Opponent 1	Present **TWO** arguments	**2 min**	**3.5 min**
Open Discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Arguments. Proponent 1 and Opponent 1 will lead the discussion, while other team members may provide brief support without taking control of the conversation.	**2 min**	**3 min**
Proponent 2	Present **TWO** arguments	**2 min**	**3.5 min**
Open Discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Arguments. Proponent 2 and Opponent 2 will lead the discussion, while other team members may provide brief support without taking control of the conversation.	**2 min**	**3 min**
Opponent 2	Present **TWO** arguments	**2 min**	**3.5 min**
Open Discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Arguments. Proponent 2 and Opponent 2 will lead the discussion, while other team members may provide brief support without taking control of the conversation.	**2 min**	**3 min**

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Phase 3- Rebuttal			
Team members from both sides are given 2 minutes to deliberate and finalize their rebuttal.			
		Grade 6-7	**Grade 8-9 and Grade 10-12**
Only Proponent 2	Arguments are addressed in the same order as they were presented in the main speeches, as introduced by the proponents and opponents during the constructive round. Points of contention are first identified, followed by responses to the opposing team's arguments, and finally the speaker reinforces their own team's argument(s).	**2 min**	**3 min**
Only Opponent 2	Arguments are addressed in the same order as they were presented in the main speeches, as introduced by the proponents and opponents during the constructive round. Points of contention are first identified, followed by responses to the opposing team's arguments, and finally the speaker reinforces their own team's argument(s).	**2 min**	**3 min**
	Total Duration:	**26 min**	**41 min**

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Debat(E) Outline (Senior Individual)

This Section Outline explains how the debate will proceed.

Participants will join an online session where they will draw the sides they are required to debate.

Phase 1- Topic Analysis		
Proponent	Analyse Key Concepts	**2 min**
Opponent	Analyse Key Concepts	**2 min**
Open discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Analysis by each.	**3 min**
Phase 2- Constructive Speeches and Open Discussions		
Proponent	Present TWO arguments	**3.5 min**
Opponent	Present TWO arguments	**3.5 min**
Open discussion	Questioning and Responding to Proposed Arguments and evidence.	**10 min**
Phase 3- Rebuttal		
Individuals from both sides are given 2 minutes to finalize their rebuttal.		
Proponent	Arguments are addressed in the same order as they were presented in the main speeches, as introduced by the proponents and opponents during the constructive round. Points of contention are first identified, followed by responses to the opposing team's arguments, and finally the speaker reinforces his/her own argument(s).	**3 min**
Opponent	Arguments are addressed in the same order as they were presented in the main speeches, as introduced by the proponents and opponents during the constructive round. Points of contention are first identified, followed by responses to the opposing team's arguments, and finally the speaker reinforces his/her own argument(s).	**3 min**
	Total Duration:	**32 min**



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Debat(E) Guidelines

Although *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue* Debat(E) aims to train learners in debating, we do not wish to be overly prescriptive. The emphasis should be placed on research, thorough analysis of the topic and the formulation of sound arguments that strengthen a team's or individual's position. Above all, logical reasoning is essential to persuade both opponents and the audience of the team's or individual's viewpoint. How a team or individual challenges opposing arguments and defends its own will, ultimately contribute to its success in the debate. It is also important to approach the delivery of speeches with credibility and conviction. Open discussions should be conducted in a natural and respectful manner.

Phase 1

The Proponents' analysis of the topic will play a guiding role in the debate. The **focus should be on unpacking the key concepts** to prevent the debate from becoming overly technical or argumentative.

In Phase 1, the Opponents should simply confirm whether they agree with the Proponents' analysis. Only if they have a motivated disagreement, should the first speaker for the opposing team present an alternative analysis.

Teams or individuals should aim to reach agreement on the analysis of the topic. If this is not possible, despite concessions, the differences may be briefly addressed during the open discussions.

Phase 2

Constructive speeches should consist out of no more and no less than two arguments. It is essential that every argument is supported by at least two pieces of evidence. This may be presented in the form of relevant examples, statistics or statements from credible authorities. During open discussions, questions and responses must remain clear and purposeful, ensuring that every contribution adds value to the debate. Teams or individuals should allow one another to engage in the conversation and will not be permitted to dominate the discussion by force. Open discussions must be orderly and promote a respectful and engaging atmosphere. Questions should focus on weaknesses and gaps in arguments. Clear opinions must be expressed, as debates cannot rely solely on sources and research without meaningful engagement. Listening remains an important skill. Responses from the open discussions should be considered the deliberation and finalization in the next phase of the debate.

Phase 3

Team members or individuals from both sides are given 2 minutes to deliberate and finalize their rebuttal. **Only Proponent 2 and Opponent 2 deliver the rebuttal** in the team debate context. During this phase, arguments are addressed in the same order as they were presented in the main speeches by the Proponent(s) and Opponent(s) during the constructive round. Speaker 2 first identifies points of

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contention, then responds to the opposing team's arguments and finally reinforces their own team's argument(s).

General

Participants will compete in school uniform. The spoken word remains the priority; therefore, props or aids will not be encouraged. Debaters will be penalized if they fail to respond to each other's arguments, whether through attack or defence. Ongoing teamwork is an essential element of a successful debate. Timeframes as set in the debating outline must be adhered to. If a speaker exceeds their time limit, an adjudicator will intervene. The speaker should finish their current sentence so that the debate can proceed to the next phase.

An adjudicator will intervene if the debate is stagnating or if any irregularities occur.

Debat(E) Dummy Debates

If a participating team or individual does not present during their allocated timeslot in the program, without a valid reason and prior email notification within a reasonable timeframe, the team or individual will forfeit their place in the competition. Arrangements will be made for the team or individual they were scheduled to compete against by *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue*. When entries are uneven, some teams or individuals may be asked by *Oppie Tong Af / On the Tip of Your Tongue* to serve as a dummy team or individual to ensure the competition runs smoothly. For Dummy Debates, scores from both the first and second debates will be recorded. Teams or individuals must choose which score to use without disclosing the results of either debate.

Debat(E) Technical Guidelines

Our aim is to create a professional online platform, and we are committed to providing each participant with digital exposure that fosters learning and growth. Prepare your camera setup ahead of time, ensure a stable internet connection, and choose a quiet space free from distractions and echoes. Test your visuals and sound beforehand. Ensure that you have a backup device on standby. *Oppie Tong Af/ On the Tip of Your Tongue* takes no responsibility for poor internet connections.

During setup, have **your team seated behind a desk for the entire debate**, with the camera positioned to show all speakers in your team clearly. Ensure that your device provides you with a full view of the team you are debating against, this allows for the interaction needed. Notepads or electronic devices can be used instead of cue cards. During the National Qualifying Round, a timer (on the top right corner of the screen) will be shown to indicate the time per phase.

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Spectators are welcome to attend the sessions and are encouraged to keep their microphones and cameras muted throughout. Competition programs will be finalized and sent to participants after the entry deadline. All schedules must be adhered to, with no exceptions.

2027 Debat(E) Timeline



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