



An initiative by GROWTHPOINT
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In collaboration with
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EDUCATION



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GROWSMART DEBATING COMPETITION 2020

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Introduction

Growsmart is an educational programme that hosts inter-school competitions in Literacy, Story Writing & Poetry, Mathematics and Science for learners in Grades 4, 5, and 6. A Debating competition is also hosted for learners in Grade 6. A pilot competition in Entrepreneurship is also being hosted for learners in Grade 6 in 2020. It is a corporate social responsibility initiative by Growthpoint Properties and is supported by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Limpopo Education Departments. The broad purpose of the competition is to promote the importance of education in a practical and fun way that will benefit both the schools and their learners.

The Debating competition will run alongside the normal Growsmart Literacy, Story Writing & Poetry, Mathematics, Science and Entrepreneurship competitions, although it will be completely separate from these.

Growsmart Debating competition

The debating competition is not compulsory and only open to learners in Grade 6.

Each participating school must select their three learners who will form the school team. This can be done through a series of preliminary competitions at the school, conducted by teachers at class level and inter-class level. Each team will participate in mock debates at the school and the school will have the discretion as to who is selected to represent the school.

The mentor will be the coordinator for the competitions selected by their school and will ensure that their team is adequately prepared.

There will be a Practise Edition, which is designed to be used for selecting your teams, plus three other editions which will follow prior to each competition level. The concepts will be expanded through stories and activities to be used for reading practice, enjoyment and comprehension.

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The mentor will obtain consent from the parents or legal guardians, ensure the team's preparation for each competition round and arrange transportation for the team to the competition venue.

This team will represent your school in the Growsmart Debating competition.

Two launch presentations will be held on **5 and 6 February 2020** for the various participating Metro Districts in order to help principals and team mentors to prepare for the upcoming competitions. Please make arrangements for transport on this day as you will be receiving the practise and first editions of the Growsmart newspaper at the launch. Not receiving the paper on this day could set your school at a disadvantage.

The competition rounds will begin on **9 May 2020** and will run over a number of months, culminating in the grand finale which will take place on Saturday, **5 September 2020**. Your team will compete at least once on a Saturday in Level 1 and will advance to Level 2 should they win their round. Should they win Level 2, they will proceed to quarter-finals (if necessary) and semi-finals. Winning the semi-final round will result in your team advancing to the final round.

The competition rounds will take place at Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology in Pinelands and run concurrently with other Growsmart competitions.

Why debating?

Debating teaches learners how to communicate with people by being able to present better, improves fluidity in communication with others, and trains a person to better understand/search for context.

It builds confidence, structure in speech, and creates an inquisitive nature and makes you question the world more.

The inquisitive nature makes you ask questions about everyday life, which also initiates problem solving. It teaches you to have an interest in knowledge.

Debating exposes learners to a lot of people.

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Growsmart Debating competition format

- The rules of debating follow the World Schools Style Debating (WSS).
- Each debate is between two schools.
- There are two teams competing with three learners each of which the one team offers a proposition and the other team offers an opposition.
- Each school has three debaters, who each speak. One of the speakers will speak twice.
- When choosing a debating team, it is important to look for the right candidates that have the ideal skills sets for each role.
- The role of the speakers for a proposition and/or opposition are as follows:
 - Learner one has to present and lay the foundation of the case by defining the motion. They will be expected to present their side's opinion and arguments therefor.
 - Learner two will rebut the arguments as given by the other side.
 - Learner three has to restructure the debate by way of filtering the key issues and providing a rebuttal. This speaker is referred to as the rebuttal-speaker.
 - Reply speaker - this is known as the right of reply and is given by either the first or second speaker of the team. The role of the reply speaker is to outline one or more points of contention and emphasise the reasons why their team has won the debate.
- During the main speeches, the opposing team can offer Points Of Information (POI). This is done by briefly interjecting on a point and the speaker must immediately respond to it. The speaker holding the floor is not obliged to accept all the points of the information offered to them but is likely to be marked down by adjudicators if they do not accept any. However, no points of information may be offered during reply speeches.
- During a debate, speakers may not communicate with their coach, other team members who are not speaking in that debate, or any person in the audience, except to receive time signals in accordance with the rules.

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- In the case of an absent learner where a substitute speech is given, judges shall award that speech the lowest possible score within the marking standard, regardless of the quality of the speech (if such a situation occurs, the marks for this speech shall not be used in the calculation for any individual speaker rankings or awards).
- Every team at the competition must be accompanied by a team mentor.
- The Chair must resolve any disputes about eligibility.
- The first two days of the level 1 competition, **9 May 2020 and 16 May 2020** are open days to have a mock debate in front of the judges for feedback. These days are compulsory to attend.
- Your debating competition will be judged on the last two days of the level 1 competition dates, **30 May 2020 and 6 June 2020**.
- The competition will take place over four levels on Saturdays.
 - Level 1: All registered teams compete to see who will advance to the next level. Each school will compete only once in Level 1. The winning teams will advance to Level 2.
 - **If a school does not arrive the opposing school will automatically compete or advance to the next level.**
 - Level 2: Winning teams from level 2 to see who will advance to the quarter-finals (if necessary). Each school will compete only once in Level 2. Eight winning teams will advance to the Semi-Final.
 - Quarter-final (if necessary): Winning teams from level 2 to compete to see who will advance to the semi-finals. This will be a knockout round based on highest scores earned during the debate.
 - Semi-final: 4 teams compete to determine which 2 schools will advance to the Final round. The Final round will be hosted on the same day and will compete final 2 schools to determine the winner.

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- Topics will be provided 1 week before the teams are due to compete. Some practise examples are provided below:
 1. This house would choose to never grow old.
 2. This house believes that parents should have access to their children's social media accounts.
 3. This house would ban homework.
 4. This house would ban school uniforms.
 5. This house would ban zoos.
 6. This house would ban beauty pageants for kids.
 7. This house would ban junk food from school tuckshops.
 8. This house believes that people should be fined for not recycling.
 9. This house would make physical education compulsory in school.
 10. This house believes that all schools should be co-ed.
 11. This house would ban animal testing.
 12. This house would make voting mandatory.
 13. This house believes that all people should be vegetarians.
 14. This house believes that all parents should be required to attend parenting classes before having a child.
 15. This house believes that it's the Government's responsibility to ensure that we will always have a good supply of water in the Province.
 16. This house believes that consumers should pay tax on bottled water.
 17. This house would ban swimming pools in this time of water shortage.
 18. This house would privatise water in the Western Cape.
 19. This house would lower the voting age in South Africa.
- There will be a debate chair who will conduct each round of the competition.
- The judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence, including from the audience, will be entered into in this regard.
- The judges will do scorekeeping and keep track of the points allocated to, or deducted from, each team.

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Glossary

- Motion/topic - an argument that will be used during a debate
- Proposition - presenting the case for
- Opposition - presenting the case against
- Format - opposing side as a party in parliament
- THSM - *This house supports, motion* principled motion
- THW - *This house would*, used when stating a motion
- THBT - *This house believes that*, used when stating a motion
- POI - *Point of information* a question to either agree or disagree with a proposition that was made
- I will take you - a term used when a point of information is accepted
- Sir and ma'am - the manner in which a fellow debater is addressed
- Order - used by the chair to maintain order
- Hear, hear - a term used in support of a statement made

Communication protocol or formalities

- Debating has a specific style in which a debate is conducted, this style enforces respect unto fellow debaters and consists of the following:
 - One can speak to your team members, quietly, if a debate is underway.
 - No distractions are allowed but if someone is in agreement of an argument the words "*hear, hear*" can be said, or a gentle "*knock-knock*" on a table. This is not to distract the speaker but rather a gesture of agreeing and supporting the fellow speaker.
 - A team can also be in support of an argument raised by the other team if they know it will help their next speaker's case.
 - The audience can also engage in this manner with gentle knocks and waves.
 - No swearing or discriminating or racially disrespectful language will be tolerated.
 - When addressing each other in a debate "sir" and "ma'am" is used.
 - If a debate "*opens up*" or anything disrespectful happens the chair says "*order*".

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Point of information

- During a debate, a point of information can be raised where a question is asked to challenge an argument.
- A point of information can be accepted or declined by the speaker.
- When declining a point of information, the speaker can only do so 3 times.
- When accepting a point of information, the speaker would say “*I will take you.*”
- Each team must offer one point of information, allowing for a flow of communication and acknowledgement of the proposition’s context of their argument.
- If the speaker allows a point of information and does not answer they will get penalised.

Timekeeping

- When making the proposition and defining the motion (speaker 1), giving supporting information (speaker 2) or speaker 3 generating a consolidated conclusion of his or her team’s debate, the following timekeeping rules apply:
 - 4 minutes in total are allowed per learner; clapping will indicate to the learner where they are in their timeframe.
 - The first minute consists of speaking only, no points of information are allowed during this time.
 - The next two minutes are unprotected time where points of information from the other team are allowed.
 - The speaker must be allowed 15 seconds between each point of information.
 - A reply speech, done by either the first or second speaker of a team and generating a consolidated conclusion of his or her team’s argument, is two minutes long.

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Etiquette when presenting

- When presenting it is generally done without notes to enforce engagement with others but some engagement with notes are allowed. To achieve a better score the learner must try to avoid using notes.
- The two teams are seated at two opposing tables.
- When presenting the speaker would stand up at his/her desk and face the audience or their opposition.
- The learner opens up their debate with “this house would” laying the motion for everyone to know what the debate is addressing.

Judging criteria

- Content
- Style
- And Strategy
- At most 2 points are awarded for answering a point of information

Online Resources

- How to run a debate
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi6lm-Sb6Vw>
 - Primary School demonstration debate
<https://www.wikihow.com/Debate>
 - World Schools Style Debate
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Schools_Style_debate
 - How to debate
<https://www.wikihow.com/Debate>
- An electronic online registration form will be emailed to your school for the enrolment of your learners in February 2020. The closing date for registration will be 20 March 2020.**

Further details will be communicated to all the participating schools as we approach Level 1 of the competition. Should you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact us on the cell phone numbers below. All the best!

Growsmart Coordinators

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Debating Marking Matrix

Western Cape Schools Provincial Debating Championship 2020		
Round: _____	Room: _____	
Chair: _____	Panelist(s): _____	
Proposition:	Score	Selection: 1-5
1:		
2:		
3:		
R:		
TOTAL		
Opposition:	Score	Selection: 1-5
1:		
2:		
3:		
R:		
TOTAL		
Winning team:		