

McMaster Debating Society



Why Debate?

- Improve valuable skills (e.g. public speaking, critical thinking) that are applicable to many areas of our professional/personal lives
- increase knowledgebase in various topics
- The thrill of debating!
- Traveling!
- Be part of the debating community!



Club Values

- **Equity:** We prohibit discriminatory speech and actions. We welcome and respect people of all ages, appearances, physical abilities, gender identities, sexual orientations, nationalities, political stances, religions, debating abilities, and so on. If you feel uncomfortable for any reason in any of our practices/events, notify an exec and we will do whatever we can to resolve the issue.
- **Open-mindedness:** To become an effective debater, we must be able to listen to others and form arguments with consideration to various viewpoints. Also, it is often better to give a generous interpretation of the other side!
- **Perseverance:** Debating is not easy to master! You will make mistakes on your journey but this is normal. Your willingness to improve will pay off greatly!



Structure of Meetings

- 1) Announcements + Split into tiers
- 2) Moderator assignments
- 3) Quick lesson of the day / German Quickie
- 4) Split into groups
- 5) Debate preparation + Debate



Recreational Tier

- Perfect environment for beginners
- We prepare for debates as a group so that you can plan what you want to say before the actual debate
- Time cap is 3min. per debater (you do not have to speak for this long)
- Debate in teams (two sides)
- More general/group feedback than individual feedback



Competitive Tier

- Beginners are welcome to start in the competitive tier.
- Full speech times (usually 5-7 min.) and following tournament styles
- Individual + Team feedback
- Preparation for tournaments



Moderators

- Moderators will be maintaining order in recreational-tier debates and facilitating discussion at the end of each debate. Execs will be training moderators.
- A great leadership opportunity!
- Send us an email if you are interested, describing any prior debating experience (no prior experience is required) and your availability throughout the week.
- Depending on the number of applicants, we may rotate moderators every week.



Tournaments

- Tournaments are open to both recreational and competitive tiers. However, recreational-tier debaters must attend some competitive-level practices before a tournament.
- We travel to universities in North America, mostly in Ontario/Quebec
- Tournaments for different levels (novice, intermediate, Pro-Am, open)
- If you compete at a tournament, we give you credit for greater subsidies in future tournaments
- Tournaments are the fastest way to improve! This is also a great opportunity to watch some of the best debaters in Canada/USA
- Meet people in CUSID, have tons of fun!



Tournaments - FAQs

- 1) What if I have a lab?
- 2) Will I be debating in front of audiences?



McGill Tournament

- There is a novice-level tournament coming up Sept. 23rd-25th
- Cost: \$120 (this covers transportation, meals, lodging, tournament registration, and socials for the whole weekend). When club funds are sorted out, you will be paid back \$20.
- We will be traveling together.
- You need to be available from 5 a.m. on Friday the 23rd to around 8pm on Sunday the 25th.
- Great chance to travel to Montreal!
- Registration form is posted on our website (email us if you cannot find it).



Show Debate!

Vote for one of the following motions:

- 1) Assume that mutants walked the earth. They are born with mutant superpowers (think X-men) that are potentially dangerous to humans. They are a minority group. This house would give mutants their own state.
- 2) This house would require all defendants in criminal trials to be represented exclusively by public defenders.

