

Document Overview:

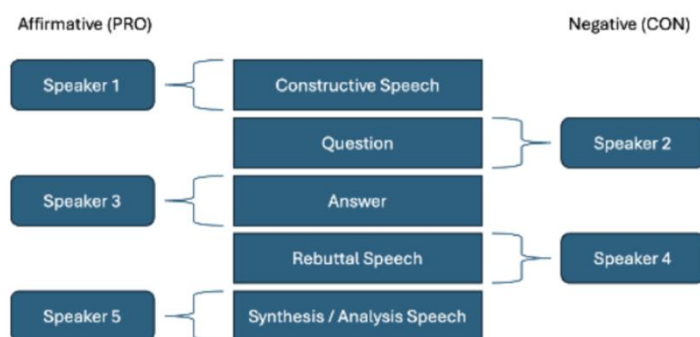
This document is intended for the participants SSDC 2025 (Phase 1 – Online Selections). The document goes over the debate format, speaker roles, and judging rubric for this phase.

**Please note that the in-person competition will have a different format and judging criteria.*

SSDC Phase 1 (Online Video Submission) Topic:

Governments should prioritize biotechnological solutions over carbon capture technologies in achieving carbon neutrality.

SSDC Phase 1 (Online Video Submission) Format:



SSDC Phase 1 (Online Video Submission) Speaker Roles/Guideline:

Affirmative (PRO) Side:

Constructive Speech (4-minute speech)

1. Introduction: Should be rhetorically persuasive and introduce the topic seamlessly.
2. Key Definitions: Select the correct key words in the topic and define them clearly for the debaters and judges.
3. Burdens of Proof: Explain what your team must prove to win the debate.
4. Signpost: Clearly list the 2–3 core arguments you will present (“Today I will present three arguments. First, , Second , , and Third,”).
5. Argument Analysis (Main Points): Follow the Claim-Reason-Evidence-Impact (CREI) structure (details provided in other training resource documents) to ensure clear execution.
6. Conclusion: End your speech with a clear call to action.

Answer Speech (4-minute speech)

1. Introduction: Be rhetorically persuasive and highlight the main point of PRO side.
2. Identify & acknowledge each question asked by Con Side.
3. Answer each question effectively: Provide direct responses while re-enforcing the constructive speaker’s points

4. Conclusion: End your speech explaining why PRO side wins the debate despite the questions of the CON side.

Synthesis Speech (4-minute speech)

**Speaker SHOULD NOT introduce new material like arguments, examples, or evidence. Speaker CAN add new layers of rebuttals.*

1. Introduction: Refocus the debate by reminding judges of your team's goal and why the key stakes favor the proposition.
2. Identify Clashes (major points of disagreement between the two teams): Clearly name the 2–3 biggest points of conflict (e.g. “Clash 1: Economic Growth vs. Social Cost”; “Clash 2: Security vs. Privacy”).
3. Clash Format (for each Clash)
 - a. Pro Side: Summarize in 2-3 sentences what your team argued on this point.
 - b. Con Side: Summarize in 2-3 sentences how the opposition responded.
 - c. Weigh & Decide: Explain extensively why your side's impact or logic is stronger & more important.
4. Conclusion: Issue a concise, compelling statement urging judges to vote for your team because you've won the clashes.

Negative (CON) Side:

Question Speech (2-minute speech)

1. Introduction: Start with a punchy statement that frames your role as uncovering gaps and demanding clarity.
2. Questions (2 to 3): Clearly state the question in one or two sentences and explain the importance of each question as you go. Questions should be about - gaps in definitions, evidence issues, unclear assumptions, logical fallacies etc.
3. Conclusion: End by reminding judges that unanswered or flawed answers expose the proposition's case as fundamentally unsound.

Rebuttal Speech (4-minute speech):

1. Introduction: Open with a sharp, persuasive claim exposing the biggest flaw in the proposition's case.
2. Signpost Main Rebuttals: Clearly list the 2–3 core points you will dismantle (“Today I will rebut their claims on A, B, and C.”).
3. Rebuttals: Please follow this format -
 - a. They Said: “They argued X.”
 - b. They Are Wrong Because: “X fails due to Y (detailed explanation of flawed evidence/logic).”
 - c. Therefore: “Your risk/impact Z shows their point collapses.”
4. Conclusion: Sum up why the proposition's case fails and urge judges to reject the motion now.

SSDC Phase 1 Judging Rubric/Score Breakdown:

1. Constructive
 - a. Content (56 pts) – Case Setup, Argument Development, Evidence Use, etc.
 - b. Organization (28 pts) – Overall Speech Structure, Argument Structure (CREI)
 - c. Role Fulfilment (8 pts) – Execution of necessary steps stated as per speaker role guidelines.
 - d. Time Compliance (8pts) – Spoken for the full length of allocated time.
2. Question
 - a. Quality of Questions (30 pts): Questions are effective and are probing into core parts of the debate.
 - b. Questions Structure (10 pts): Questions are clearly stated and then importance of the question is explained.
 - c. Relevance to the topic (5 pts): Questions are relevant to the debate and its points.
 - d. Prioritization of Questions (5pts): Questions are asked based on the order of importance it holds in the debate.
3. Answer
 - a. Acknowledgment of Questions (10 pts): All questions are addressed.
 - b. Answer Quality (10 pts): Answers are to the point & conclusive.
 - c. Re-affirmation (15 pts): Speaker reminds the judge of the constructive points when/where appropriate.
 - d. Conclusive Remarks (5 pts): Re-focuses the debate on the main considerations.
4. Rebuttal
 - a. Engagement (45pts) – Rebuttal Quality
 - b. Organization (30 pts) – Overall Speech Structure, Rebuttal Structure
 - c. Role Fulfilment (20 pts) – Execution of necessary steps stated as per speaker role guidelines.
 - d. Time Utilization (5 pts) - Spoken for the full length of allocated time.
5. Synthesis
 - a. Debate Synthesis (40 pts): Overall summary of the debate (both pro and con side points) packaged in different clashes.
 - b. Comparative Weighing (25 pts): Explanation of why their impacts are more important than the opponent's impacts.
 - c. Organization (25 pts): Overall Speech Structure, Clash Structure
 - d. Role Fulfilment (10 Pts): Execution of necessary steps stated as per speaker role guidelines.
 - e. Time Utilization (5 Pts): Spoken for the full length of allocated time