



The 22nd Vasant Valley School Debate for the INDIA TODAY CUP

Public Service Announcement

Ladies and Gentlemen, the time to debate is now! However, we find the constantly overused phrases and words in debate inherently problematic, right? In a narrative that runs unbelievably fast, and is filled with over the top hand gestures, we find it our prerogative to encourage debaters against this incessant trend. After all, this has become far too prevalent to be healthy, right? If you have so many people using similar phrases, there is no room left for individuals to have a different style of speaking, right? Eventually, in this paradigm, most, if not all, parliamentary debaters will sound the same, and this is something that I do not stand for. The opposition essentially seems to believe that this phenomenon is just another part of the celebrated debate culture and that it ends up promoting inclusivity, but we tell you that this is an exceedingly idealistic way of looking at things and ignores the most important stakeholders- new debaters. Panel, if we keep this trend going, it will find its way down the hierarchy and will contribute to generations of like-mindedness and unoriginality! The fact of the matter is that it is your choice to make- Would you like to perpetuate this frivolous trend?

-Pritvi Oak, 12

FINAL ROUND

TH supports the crowdsourcing of news via social media.



VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL V/S LAHORE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

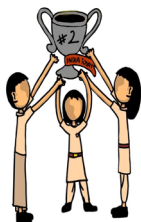
PROPOSITION

“How exactly are anti-bias laws to be implemented if the bias is against those making the law in the first place?”

Side proposition started their debate by declaring that they did not want to live in a world where their opinions were controlled by a few biased people at the top. They stated that the purpose of news was to inform citizens about global as well as local news in an unbiased manner so that citizens can form their own opinions.

News should not aim to sway the public’s opinions in any way, shape or form. Giving an example of how Republic TV chose to focus on Sushant Singh Rajput’s case instead of the Hathras incident, side proposition asserted that reporters often ignore important news which can be shared by people through crowdsourcing.

They also spoke about how many reporters are hesitant to go to troubled areas like Kashmir, leaving a lot of news unreported. They further rebutted side opposition’s claims about the unreliability of crowdsourcing



of news via social media by pointing out that crowdsourcing sites would not be willing to break the public’s trust since their existence depends on the public’s faith in them. They claimed that the extra scrutiny on crowdsourcing sites would lead to extensive fact checking by them before they report any news.

OPPOSITION

“This isn’t about where the article is published. It’s about where you’re getting your information from.”

Side opposition strongly believed that the harms identified by proposition weren’t exclusive to their case. They believed that crowdsourcing would aggravate existing biases, lack of representation, and media polarization.

They argued that this move would destroy the quality of the news due to the lack of viability of social media sources. On social media, the most popular news isn’t the most authentic news, and most of these sites are rife with fake accounts and deep-fakes meant to manipulate people.

Twitter, Facebook and the like also have a tendency to divide which causes an increase in social media affiliations or biases. Crowdsourcing will also serve to disincentivise people against journalism.

More importantly, however, social media news sources target individuals in the same ideological camps so biases are exacerbated by side proposition. Opposition believed that competition between conventional media sources balances the differences in opinions. Laws against the spread of false information by news channels do a better job in providing viable and trustworthy information to people than crowdsourcing.



After a close battle, Lahore College of Arts and Sciences emerged victorious!

THE SEMI-FINALS

Assuming that the technology exists, TH will allow people to delete their memories.



MALLYA ADITI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BENGALURU

PROPOSITION

“Everyone deserves peace. Everyone deserves to live a life in which they are content.”

Side proposition began their debate by clearly stating that this technology would be used by people who have had bad experiences in their lives which have prevented them from moving forward. The speakers asserted that the people who have faced trauma deserve a right to be free from their suffering and pain. They further clarified that they wouldn't allow criminals to erase their memories as these are important for them to ensure that they don't repeat the same crime again and the government (which is responsible for this technology) would dictate which memory is worth erasing. Their first argument stressed on the fact that negative memories create a long-lasting impact and influence a person in a manner that prevents them from living their best possible life. They emphasised that this sets up a life of fear. The speakers concluded their speech by elucidating on the right to body autonomy and saying that since the removal of toxic memories does much more good than harm, it is a right that people deserve.



VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL- A TEAM

PROPOSITION

“We stand for a world where people can make decisions for themselves, not one where they are forced to live with their trauma.”

Side proposition based their arguments on the fact that deleting memories would be voluntary and without long term effects. They built their case by distinguishing among different types of memories and spoke about how only traumatic experiences, which weigh down upon a person's psyche and decrease their productivity, would be deleted. They emphasised on how people suffering from trauma are the vulnerable stakeholders who must have the agency to choose for themselves. Clarifying the precautions in such scenarios, they highlighted the importance of providing information regarding the short and long term effects such deletion might have while waiting for a minimum period of three months before allowing individuals to do so. Giving the example of Ted Bundy, a serial killer affected by childhood trauma, proposition presented the case that deletion of trauma could have a positive impact on society as a whole. They also deemed mere counselling ineffective in dealing with experiences like sexual assault, domestic violence, and wartime memories.



LAHORE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

OPPOSITION

“No one can decide which memory is significant for a another person”

Deeply condemning the technology that allows people to remove their memories, side opposition asserted that this would allow people to run away from their mistakes and difficulties in life. Even if a person has their memory erased, others around them will still have such memories and could still remind the person of their suffering. Furthermore, they introduced the fact that only the rich would have access to such developed technology, therefore, even if there were some benefits, they would be unable to be enjoyed by the vast majority. Their argument emphasised on the fact that bad memories provide people with important learnings. They would rather have people seek therapy where they are taught to come to terms with what has happened to them if they really want to move on. For people who are oppressed or face injustice, such as those who are a part of the LGBTQ+ movement, these bad memories serve as an incentive to cultivate feelings of empathy among their community to fight against injustice.

Lahore School of Arts and Sciences emerged victorious!



THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL, MOULSARI

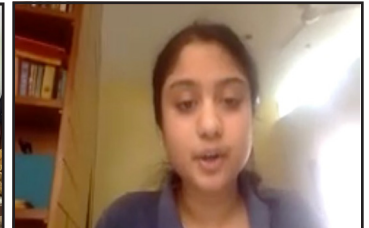
OPPOSITION

“We cannot gauge the effects of deleting one's memories of trauma on one's future.”

Opposition based their debate firmly on the notion that memories are crucial to the personalities of individuals. They argued that memories are the building blocks of emotions and any deletion can have unforeseeable consequences on a person. They claimed that sadness was extremely important due to its ability to change one's outlook on life and said that its elimination would have serious repercussions. They argued passionately about distinctions between short term and long term memories and how they could have lasting effects even after deletion.

They also argued that traumatic experiences can lead to positive growth as in the case of Malala Yousufzai, who rose to become a feminist icon. They brought up the very relevant argument of the drastic consequences of having such technology fall into the wrong hands such as those of authoritarian governments and oppressive regimes. They concluded by saying that counselling is a better alternative.

Vasant Valley School emerged victorious!





THE QUARTER-FINALS

TH (as the Democratic Party) will actively field more socialist candidates.



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL v/s THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL MOULSARI



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION

“The Left deserves to have a chance to fight for their ideology.”

“People don’t want to go so far right or so far left, they want something Centrist.”

Side proposition stated that the Democratic Party has a duty to better the political system. It has an obligation to the public and the people. The political system continues to shift towards the Right, whereas, for a healthy political system, we need a balance between the Left and the Right wings. Capitalism is not merit-based and it is not morally justified. It is wrong for the Democratic Party to follow the same economic policy. The fact that Trump did not win the popular vote proves that people want socialism. Bernie Sanders also did not win because of his age. The youth of America voted for the Green New Deal and they want socialism.

Side opposition came up and stated that the main aim of the Democratic Party is to get rid of President Trump who is incredibly radical. The typical middle-class white American does not care about the environment. They claimed that America has villainised socialism and that is why Biden wins over Bernie. Biden and Harris are an acceptable compromise. Not every American wants controversial policies such as the Green New Deal. Socialism is the exact opposite of the Republican Party’s ideology, and actively fielding more socialist candidates can be extremely tumultuous. Taking an anti-corporate stance at this stage will be the downfall of the Democratic Party as these huge private enterprises have been the economic roots of America since time immemorial. The Democratic Party will become stronger after Biden comes into power. He can pave the way for socialist candidates like AOC and Bernie.

They claimed the opposition was myopic, and focused on the short-term. In the long-term we need to move the party from the Centre to the Left. America wants change. We cannot be blind to their desires.

The Shri Ram School emerged victorious!

TH regrets the rise of political consultancy in India.



VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL-A v/s MOTHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



PROPOSITION

OPPOSITION

“It’s principally unfair to mislead voters”

“We believe in a better standard of politics”

Side proposition began their case by explaining that the main aim of political parties is to come into power and that the voters just vote for the candidate they relate with the most. They claimed that without political consultancy, parties will actually care about their workers, the voters will be able to voice their issues and there will be healthier competition and fairer elections.

Side opposition started by highlighting the differences between the times where there was no political consultancy and the present state of affairs. They said that before political consultancy there was no understanding of people’s issues and that the average man was not able to make a conscious decision about whom to vote for. Today, relevant issues are highlighted and voted on. They spoke about how the aim of political parties, apart from coming into power, was to address people’s issues. They believed that politicians become more efficient in doing so with the presence of political consultancy.

Furthermore they used examples of BJP and AAP while talking about how inherently unfair political consultancy is. They also brought in the angle of money and how bigger parties can swing votes easily. They repeated the need for better policies over more money. They believed that it was wrong to be misleading the voters.

They countered proposition’s points by saying that companies like IPAC can help overcome the deficit of money, like seen in the case of AAP and BJP. They also said that political consultancies help the election process run better.

Vasant Valley School emerged victorious!

TH regrets the rise of political consultancy in India.



MALLYA ADITI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL v/s VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL, B TEAM



PROPOSITION

“This is an assault on the spirit of democracy”

Side government began by explaining that they wanted a board of scientists and experts appointed by the judiciary to replace the political consultancy system which violates the spirit of democracy due to the lack of engagement of ideas. They claimed that it instead becomes a way to indulge in vote bank politics. Manipulation due to extremism and polarisation creates echo chambers which collapse the electoral system in India. They also put forth the argument that consultancy firms will hike prices on the other side of the house, making data inaccessible, such that whichever party has more money will win. To further this, they gave the example of the Congress party, claiming that since they know the Muslim community will not vote for the BJP, they do not pay much attention to their demands. Therefore, they can divert their attention to other communities. They ended by saying that political consultancies do work that parties are meant to.

OPPOSITION

“Panel, the problems highlighted by side proposition are not about political consultancy, they are about democracy”

Side opposition started by talking about the feasibility of political consultancies which, instead of political leaders, go to collect data from various villages. They believed that the fact that any political party would campaign in an area where they are likely to get votes is not just due to political consultancy as alleged by side government. They said that since leaders are disconnected from reality, political consultancies help them gather grass-root level data. They further strengthened this argument with the example of Rahul Gandhi.

They also spoke about how data from consulting will incentivise parties to form better policies. They ended by reinstating their belief that political consultancies established a better connection between people and the government, furthering the cause of democracy by recognising the interests of the whole population.

Mallya Aditi International School emerged victorious!

TH regrets the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff.



NEERJA MODI SCHOOL v/s LAHORE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



PROPOSITION

“The opposition entrances a right-wing autocrat into power with no scope of change.”

Side proposition stated that Dilma Rousseff’s impeachment was undemocratic and was brought about by a power hungry dictator who wanted to return to power. They attacked Bolsonaro’s government by claiming that he wasn’t ‘good’ for the Brazilian public, pointing out how he doesn’t believe in climate change, respect women or support people who belong to the LGBTQ+ community.

They explained how Bolsonaro had been misusing taxpayers’ money to exploit the indigenous people of Brazil. They went on to say that he was elected by the Senate and not the Brazilian public. Thus the impeachment and the subsequent election were undemocratic.

Additionally, they claimed that the opposition’s accusation of Rousseff buying politicians were rumours spread by Bolsonaro’s party and hadn’t been empirically proven.

OPPOSITION

“Our side sets a precedent that warns leaders against acting against the Brazilian public’s welfare, while side proposition would allow a corrupt leader to let the Brazilian economy fall to pieces”

Side opposition asserted that Bolsonaro was elected by a majority of Brazilians and has helped the nation by giving economic stimulus and reviving the economy. They asserted that Dilma Rousseff was actively harming the Brazilian nation, politically and economically, by accusing her of misusing the taxpayers’ money and buying politicians. They said that the people protested to have Rouseff removed and blamed her for the increase in crime and corruption in Brazil under her presidency. They praised Bolsonaro for using the public’s tax money to benefit the Brazilian economy. They also said that he was the better option as he had helped people get jobs, and that side proposition was only looking at the small picture. They ended by saying that the Supreme Court had already indicted him for his management of Covid-19. This action set a precedent that the courts would prevent him from being a dictator.

Lahore College of Arts and Sciences emerged victorious!



PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

THBT it is justified to invoke Hindu Mythology for feminist causes.



THE HERITAGE SCHOOL v/s MALLYA ADITI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PROPOSITION

"Hindu Mythology has become a stepping stone for the wave of feminism."

Side proposition relied heavily on examples to justify their position. They argued that Hindu mythology puts men and women on equal footing and thus furthers the cause for the feminist movement. They spoke about how women played pivotal roles in mythological battles, and often symbolised typically masculine ideas like destruction and war. They further cemented their arguments using the examples of Kalimata, Sita, Mandodari and Shikhandi.




OPPOSITION

"We cannot tie something as fundamentally oppressive as religion to something as liberal as feminism."

Side opposition based their arguments on the fact that the feminist movement rose in opposition to the religious subjugation of women and the promotion of patriarchy. They argued that religion introduced and maintained the status quo that denied women equal rights and opportunities. They also spoke about how religion is politicised in countries like India and so relating feminism to it would serve to split the movement.

Side opposition emerged victorious

TH would depict gods as having flaws.




STRAWBERRY FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL v/s MAYO COLLEGE, AJMER

PROPOSITION

"Religion is something that humans have created to better themselves."

Side proposition talked about the very fundamental and deep rooted history of religion as a whole. They said that religion is not a commodity and it is not tangible. Emotions like jealousy or rage are harmful but should be normalised in society. Instead of suppressing them, we should encourage people to express them in healthy ways. Religion should be open to interpretation. It is deeply personal to a human being and should be taken as such.



OPPOSITION


"If gods are subjected to flaws, every human would justify their own flaws and this will cause social harm."

Side opposition spoke about how depicting gods as being flawed could serve to destabilize the social construct we have created. Converting an ideal figure into a flawed one could have dangerous consequences.

They said that proposition's argument diluted the definition of god because "God" is ideal. The word "God" is equated to moral authority and the figure is essentially different from man.

Side proposition emerged victorious

THW disregard sacred/religious claims to land ownership.




SPRINGDALES SCHOOL v/s HERITAGE XPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCHOOL

PROPOSITION

"Opposition is living outside this debate and their arguments are devoid."

Side proposition argued that most of the people who claim land ownership on religious grounds are extremists, and on the basis of our nations' secular principles, no religious claims should be credited or considered. They believed that the opposition's arguments on religious sentiments were devoid and irrelevant to this debate. They directly engaged with the constructive argumentation of the opposition team.




OPPOSITION

"Religion can be just and kind and so much more."

The opposition stated that religious/sacred claims to land ownership should be considered on the basis of the principle of justice. They said that though violence would exist on either side of the debate, on their side the third party [the judiciary] could significantly reduce the level of violence. The duty of the justice system and the fairness of the judiciary were some of the arguments they brought up through examples like Mecca, Israel and the Babri Masjid.

Side opposition emerged victorious

THBT it is justified to invoke hindu mythology for feminist causes.




LA MARTINIERE COLLEGE v/s THE INDIAN SCHOOL

PROPOSITION

"A surreal concept is a bizarre concept, something feminism is not."

Side proposition started by defining important terms. They said that mythology has a huge impact in this country- as seen when a mob of people went and demolished a national monument.

We need to make people understand feminism through these very texts. They rebutted opposition's points by saying that taboos like Sati are socio-economic practices which are not mentioned in mythological texts.



OPPOSITION


"Mythology is a collection of stories we can use to invoke a surreal concept like feminism."

Side opposition went on to say that mythological stories are myths, not religious values, and hence can't be used to invoke feminism. They re-emphasized that it's not about mythology but about how people interpret it.

They mentioned several examples to strengthen their debate. Hindu mythology cannot be used to justify feminism since taboos such as widow shaming are present in it.

Side proposition emerged victorious

TH would depict gods as having flaws.




CONVENT OF JESUS AND MARY v/s VIVEK HIGH SCHOOL

PROPOSITION

"Seeing god's having flaws teaches us that no one is perfect in this world"

Side proposition defined gods not just as deities but also entities that we look up to. They asserted that the facts we know about gods are, after all, written by mortals. Therefore, there will be flaws in them too as flaws are an integral part of human existence. They bolstered their argument by citing a plethora of examples and concluded their arguments by saying that "It is only by making mistakes that we learn right from wrong"



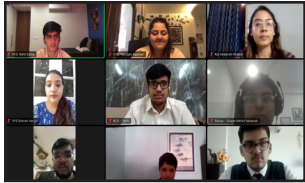


OPPOSITION

"God's depict the best versions of ourselves"

Side opposition began their speech with a passionate rebuttal stating that the goal of mythology is to highlight the virtues and not the flaws of gods. The speakers asserted that if the flaws in these figures were highlighted, humans would use this as a way to justify their own shortcomings in real life. They emphasised that the unrealistic standard set by "God" helps people improve themselves. They concluded their arguments by citing the fact that humanising gods would defeat their very purpose.

Side opposition emerged victorious

"Did you see Arjun wallow in self-pity when Dronacharya gave him bad grades?"

"We should ban parents."

"Opposition has just given me another thing to be angry about with that POI!"

"They are saying that sex education should not be associated with pornography. Then what should we associate with pornography? Parle-G biscuits?"

"Everybody asks who is the SAT topper not how is the SAT topper."

TH will abolish quantitative assessment in schools.

LACAS LAHORE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES v/s THE DOON SCHOOL, DEHRADUN
PROPOSITION

"In a world where we focus solely on grades, we fail to focus on building the character and personality of people." Side government stood strongly against internal marks and grades and provided holistic & constructive feedback as the alternative to this system. They believed that the existing system hinders the process of learning and makes its sole objective getting a grade. The point at which the incentive is grades, people are grouped as "smart" and "dumb". The purpose of education, according to proposition, is defeated in opposition's paradigm.



OPPOSITION

"Side government doesn't prepare the children for the heavy competition that lies ahead in life." Side opposition questioned whether we're really helping anyone in a world where students have no motivation to become better. At some point individuals will have to be put in a competitive environment and the existing system better prepares them for it. They argued that any pressure that exists on side opposition's side will also exist in proposition's paradigm, as poor feedback could be equated to poor grades.

Side proposition emerged victorious

TH will disallow teenagers from consuming pornography.

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, R.K.PURAM v/s MODERN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
PROPOSITION

"The pornographic industry leads to social and economic exploitation." Teenagers are in a stage of transition, they're in a stage of self realization. Pornography is a distraction because it is extremely addictive, like any other substance abuse. The problem with the pornographic industry is that it objectifies women and gives teenagers a very distorted image of reality. This industry has not been there since time immemorial, and our ancestors have found other means of deriving self-pleasure, highlighting the fact that such exploitative means are not needed.



OPPOSITION

"There is a difference between emotional maturity and sexual maturity, and emotional maturity varies from person to person." Pornography promotes sex education and encourages people to explore their sexual identity. Sexual feelings and indulgences are totally normal for teenagers and when one disallows pornography, one creates a stigma around these completely normal feelings. Regulating pornography by showing safe sex for educational purposes is the healthy option. In addition, pornography does not limit itself to heterosexuality, it shows the LGBTQIA+ community, enabling teenagers to embrace their sexual identities.

Side opposition emerged victorious

TH will not write literature in the coloniser's language.

MODERN SCHOOL BARAKHAMBA v/s CATHEDRAL AND JOHN CONNON SCHOOL
PROPOSITION

"Literature's goal is to create a sense of identity." Side proposition spoke about how literature is reflective of the people belonging to a nation. Language is an important identity of people.

They furthered their argument by stating that colonisers used their language to dominate over the colonised people. They claimed that the coloniser's language also creates inequalities as not everyone has access to learning such languages.



OPPOSITION

"Speaking a language and writing in the same language are two very different things." Side opposition claimed that while primary education will happen in a vernacular language, literature will always be written in the colonial language. If vernacular language is used ethnic people will be limited to discussing their problems amongst themselves. They went on to say that there is no language battle in India today. Every single person should have access to all forms of literature from all parts of the country and the world.

Side opposition emerged victorious



TH will disallow parents from scanning fetuses for disabilities.

BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL v/s GEMS MODERN ACADEMY
PROPOSITION

"Why do we get to choose who lives or dies? We are not God." Side proposition argued that there was something inherently wrong with seeing differently abled people as 'disabled'. They said that scanning foetuses before birth promotes the idea of discrimination in society. They also argued that a disabled life wasn't worth any less than any other, and any resentment on the parent's side was not the child's fault. Disabilities are part of a spectrum that represent an entire community that has the right to exist.



OPPOSITION

"If you support abortion, you cannot fundamentally oppose terminating a disabled foetus." Side opposition based their argument on the right to information the parents had. They reiterated that the opportunity to scan for disabilities does not necessarily mean aborting a disabled child, it means being better prepared for a different situation. They also said that lack of information can lead to resentment and abuse for the disabled child. They added that prejudice against disability won't stop existing even if a foetus is allowed to be born.

Side opposition emerged victorious

THW abolish quantitative assessment in schools.

SANSKRITI SCHOOL v/s SARDAR PATEL VIDYALAYA
PROPOSITION

"You cannot judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree" Side proposition started off by saying that the current quantitative system of education is failing us, and many important life lessons are being left out. Letter grades are not the best form of comparison as each child is unique and brilliant. Standardized tests and grades prove to be a heavy burden on children's mental health. The system must be changed to reflect qualitative assessment which consists of individual feedback.



OPPOSITION

"We live in a competitive world where we need a way of comparing people!" Side opposition started off by saying that for hundreds of years, education has been operating through a system of quantitative assessment based on grades and percentile. In our competitive modern world, we need common standards to compare children. These standards should not be vague and confusing, such as those in qualitative assessments. The perception of grades and marks should be changed to make them more constructive, but the system should remain the same.

Side opposition emerged victorious



TH will abolish quantitative analysis in schools.
THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL v/s SHIV NADAR SCHOOL, GURGAON

PROPOSITION
 "I don't stand for 28 suicides a day ladies and gentlemen, do you?"

OPPOSITION
 "Teacher feedback can be biased, therefore, qualitative assessment would just serve to confuse children."

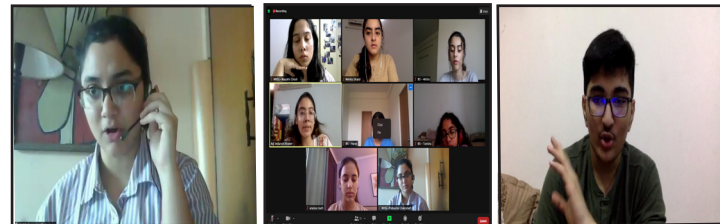
Side government spoke about how quantitative assessment encourages rote learning and peer pressure. They went on to highlight the differences between education and literacy. They claimed that grades are not the best form of imparting education as they cannot measure the morals or ethics a child possesses.

Side opposition opposed the burden put forth by side government. They claimed that quantitative assessments offered a uniform system to measure merit. Qualitative assessments, on the other hand, would consist of teacher feedback, which is highly subjective.

They ended by talking about how experiential learning was the future of education.

They said qualitative and quantitative assessments should go hand in hand as different students prefer different systems of learning.

Side opposition emerged victorious



TH will transfer ownership of ecologically sensitive zones to their resident local populations.
BEACONHOUSE DEFENCE CAMPUS, LAHORE v/s THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR

PROPOSITION
 "The locals will care about the number of trees that are providing them with oxygen"

OPPOSITION
 "Under the status quo, the locals are allowed to carry out economic activities without harming resources"

Side government began by saying that the State and corporations ignore the local people and over-exploit resources. They said that because companies have lobbying power, people cannot even stand up to them. They talked about zones being in such poor situations due to the failure of the government to protect them. They believed that on their side of the house the locals would have a greater say in what happens to the resources around them.

Side opposition said that currently companies are regulated by the government and cannot exploit resources at their free will. They also believed that urban residents could try to manipulate the locals to put forth their interests. They also talked about reduced accountability due to local inheritance. They ended by saying that the government takes environmental and local interests into consideration, having a more macro perspective at things than the locals would.

Side proposition emerged victorious

THBT social movements should aim to translate into political parties.
SISHYA SCHOOL, CHENNAI v/s PATHWAYS SCHOOL, GURGAON

PROPOSITION
 "When you become the system, you create change."

OPPOSITION
 "You do not have to be the institution to change the institution."

Citing examples of social movements that proved to be volatile but short lived without legal backing, proposition spoke about how you can only help change the system once you enter it. Social movements which translate into political parties can scare the government in power into making real changes. They reiterated that channelising the energy of a social movement into a political party can be incredibly effective and can help make a difference.

Speaking about the competition, corruption and self-interest that is often rampant in political parties, side opposition claimed that the transition of people involved in a social movement into a political party would result in them straying off from their path. They stated that the leader of a social movement may not be adept to really govern a country as they would be focused on only one cause. They also cited several historical examples such as Mao Zhedong's rule.

Side proposition emerged victorious

TH will not write literature in the coloniser's language.
SPRINGDALES SCHOOL v/s SUNBEAM ENGLISH SCHOOL, VARANASI

PROPOSITION
 "Language is inseparable from human beings. The imposition of a colonial world leads to the misinterpretation of our history."

OPPOSITION
 "Language and culture are a very important part of a person's personality"

Establishing the context of the post colonial world in which the given motion should be debated, proposition went on to characterize the harms of the oppressor's language. They tied language to an understanding of culture and ideology and elaborated on how using the coloniser's language caused a cultural shift in colonised countries.

Opposition began their debate by talking about today's globalised world. They went on to elaborate on the harm of not writing in the coloniser's language, saying that this limited an individual from being able to translate and share their culture with the rest of the world. They applied the idea of today's post colonial world with its eurocentric narrative to understand the need for using the coloniser's language.

Side proposition emerged victorious

THW not write literature in the coloniser's language.
BISHOP COTTON SCHOOL V/S CONVENT OF JESUS AND MARY

PROPOSITION
 "The simple fact that we're debating in the language of a strange land today tells me how we've essentially forgotten who we are."

OPPOSITION
 "Greatness isn't achieved by copying. It is achieved by standing firmly in our convictions."

Side proposition stated that writing literature in the language of the colonisers- the invaders- served to paint them as superior.

Side opposition based their argument on the wide-reaching power of a language like English, which is essential for global communication. They said that literature in English would have a much wider audience and help in propagating Indian culture itself. They also added that India's fluency in English is an economic advantage which we need to utilise fully. The youth of India can have better job opportunities and can add to the country's value if they are fluent in English.

Side opposition emerged victorious

WHICH MEMBER OF A DEBATE TEAM ARE YOU?

Q 1. What are you like during prep time?

- (A) You're still cribbing about the fact that the other side has an advantage.
- (B) You flesh out your arguments with ease and help others gain clarity on the motion.
- (C) You're arguing with your teammates about which constructive to prioritise first.
- (D) You're lost and fail to understand what is going on.

Q 2. What are you doing in the last minutes before your speech?

- (A) You're sweating out of nervousness and think you're going to mess up your speech.
- (B) You've got all your rebuttals written down and are ready to 'destroy' the opposition.
- (C) You're advising your teammates on how they should speak and what they should say.
- (D) You realise that you've gotten nothing written down and are scrambling for help.

Q 3. The debate is over and you're waiting for the results. What is your condition?

- (A) You've made up your mind about the fact that your team has lost and are convincing the rest of the members.
- (B) You're optimistic and are encouraging the team to believe in themselves.
- (C) You're 'politely' trying to tell the other teammates what they did wrong and what they should have done differently.
- (D) You're mentally exhausted and can't seem to remember what happened during the past few minutes.

Q 4. The results have been announced. Your team has won! What is your reaction?

- (A) You're extremely relieved and can finally relax.
- (B) You congratulate your team, discuss how you all can improve and commend your opponents as well.
- (C) You take this opportunity to take 'some' credit and say "I told you so."
- (D) You're just glad you've won.

If you got...Mostly A's: Your anxiety seems to get the better of you at times. You are probably new to debating but are quite competitive. Deep breathing before a debate might help you do better.

If you got...Mostly B's: You can be called the 'perfect teammate'. You have everything in control and have probably been an ardent debater for a while now. You are in the competition not just to win but also for the experience.

If you got...Mostly C's: The only opinion you accept is your own. You feel like it is your responsibility to keep everyone else in check and your main goal is to win.

If you got...Mostly D's: You don't usually participate in debates. You feel a little overwhelmed by the whole process but are happy to just enjoy the moment and debate.



-Anahita Kukreja, Arshya Gaur, 11

DID THE CHICKEN COME BEFORE THE EGG?



What did the debaters think of these motions?

THBT McDonald's is the best fast food restaurant

"I stand against this. Clearly, Tacobells is the best because they give you Masala fries even if you don't ask for them and McDonald's charges you twenty bucks for no reason. They even have a desert made up of Tacos! Can you imagine that? McDonald's has nothing on Tacobells. I rest my case."

-Suraj Chawla, Adjudicator

THBT Jack could have fit on the door with Rose

"TBH it's less of a motion more of a fact. They could have taken turns!"

-The Lawrence School, Sanawar

"He was a figment of Rose's imagination so technically there was no one to save!"

-Beaconhouse School

THBT politics is the best form of comedy

"Indian and American politics, YES!"

-The Doon School

THBT water has a taste

"This debate can not be won or lost without a sufficient definition of water. Pure, distilled water does not have a taste, but it depends on the definition- Does orange juice count as water? The age old debate."

-Sishya School

THBT pineapple belongs on pizza

"Pineapple, cheese and pepperoni- How does that even work?"

-The Lawrence School, Sanawar

"If pineapple belongs to pizza, pizza doesn't belong to man!"

-Mayo College

THBT the chicken came before the egg

"The eggs came first for sure. Look at the shape, it's so obvious"

- Adjudicator, Samridh Sharma

THBT wearing socks with sandals is acceptable

"Completely useless, don't even think of it!"

- Rashtriya Indian Military College

IF DONALD TRUMP WAS TO DEBATE FOR THE INDIA TODAY CUP

THBT Trump failed to handle the COVID-19 pandemic



CHAIR: "I call upon the Prime Minister, um, in this case the President, to begin the debate."

TRUMP: "You know, everything they are going to tell you today is a lie. They don't know what they're talking about. I completely, *totally*, handled the virus in the best way one could have. It was the best, THE GREATEST, handling of a virus *ever*."

OPPONENT: "POI!"

TRUMP: "Huh? Do not interrupt me. See, I never interrupt. Anyway, as I was saying, they're all trying to sway the election."

OPPONENT: "POI! Speaker, do you not believe that there is a fundamental contradiction when the fact of the matter is that you botched the handling-?"

TRUMP: "FAKE NEWS"

CHAIR: "I thank the President for those...fine remarks. Now, I would like to call upon the leader of opposition to begin their case."

OPPONENT: "Panel you cannot let him get away with lies as to why his unstructured argumentat holds any relevance to this debate. First, some extraneous rebuttal, then three key constructives with three structural reasons under each proving the veracity of our case..."

TRUMP: * Leaves Meeting *

-Siddhant Nagrath, Daksayani Chandra, 10

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