

# Student Affairs Committee of The Entomological Society of America

## Student Debate 2022: Schedule, Instructions, and Rules

### Debate Preparation and Background:

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) organizes the Student Debates every year and looks forward to continuing the tradition of compelling, student-led debates this year. One of the main goals of this competition is to produce a high-quality manuscript of general interest to the Entomological Society of America (ESA) published in the peer-review *Journal of Insect Science*. Teams must be committed to the completion of this manuscript, beyond the meeting in Vancouver.

The Student Debates Subcommittee (SDS) of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) randomly assigns the debate issues and stances to the first 6 teams that sign up to participate. To reserve a slot for your team you must, (1) submit a list composed of 3 to 5 team members (all of whom will be active participants), (2) include a designated team leader (or spokesperson), and (3) provide the name and contact information for your faculty advisor (include contact info in email), (4) list your topic preferences (1st and 2nd choice), (5) submit a completed release form for all team members, (6) note if the team is willing to allow an interested ESC or ESBC student to join their team. **Please note that priority may be given to ESA student debates teams that are willing to allow an interested ESC or ESBC student to join their team.** All communications between debate organizers and the debate teams will go through the designated team leaders and must be sent to the Student Debate email ([esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com)). Teams may be assigned a topic that includes a stance (yes/no) or an issue (pro/con). Teams debating issues will develop a list of three arguments to support their assigned stance on respective debate topics. The SDS will pick an argument from each team's list that the SDS determines will result in the most interesting debate, so choose your arguments wisely, as any of the three could be chosen. These teams must remember that they will be defending their stance, so they should be sure that it is a defensible position given currently published science.

After topics and stances are selected for each of the 6 teams, each team will compile a list of no more than 40 references to support your assigned position. The list should include the following information in the header: your topic and all team member names and send this to the SDS email. Each team will document major points with references that pertain to their team's argument. In addition, references should incorporate articles from the opposing argument to aid with the defense of the debate stance. References must be supplied to the SDS at [esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com) by the due date and cited using ESA guidelines for the *Journal of Insect Science* format (see an example [here](#) under the "Journal of Insect Science Instructions for Authors" hyperlink). If there are any questions about references listed by the opposing team, you must send an email to SDS **AND** the opposing team's lead contact via email.

Restrictions on references are as follows:

While referencing a book, a specific chapter must be referenced and not the entire book. However, multiple chapters in a book can be included in a citation. Each team will be limited to 10 web-

based citations and only the information on the page referenced will be usable (i.e., no downloadable files or accessed hyperlinks will be allowed).

### Hyperlink Examples

Incorrect:

www.usda.gov (too general)

Appropriate:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=18487.wba>

### Main Points:

Please note there are two debates summaries needed **before** the debates (See deadlines below):

1. Several weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, each team will submit a topic/position synopsis, not to exceed 250 words, to the SDS. This synopsis will provide a general introduction of the argument the team will be making, but not give away the details or specific arguments. Synopses will be exchanged between sides for comments. Faculty advisors should review these synopses before submission.
2. Before the debates, each team will submit a summary (600 words maximum) of their position to SDS (which will not be circulated). **Please be sure that these summaries are publication worthy** (formatted for the *Journal of Insect Science*, found [here](#)), as they serve as the first draft of the debate manuscript. After the debates, each team will have the opportunity to edit their position summary, which will be compiled by SDS, for submission to the *Journal of Insect Science*.

Feel free to contact SDS with any questions that you may have. Thank you in advance for participating in the 2022 student debates!

## Debates Program Instructions

### Unbiased Introduction: 5 minutes (with PowerPoint)

For each of the three topics, there will be a five-minute unbiased “introductory” presentation made by a member of the SDS. Follow the same presentation guidelines given to the debating team introductions (see below). Unbiased introduction presenters may provide either in-text citations or a reference list in the presented slides. The SDS will also write a 600-word introduction summary to the debate teams prior to the event for use in the published manuscript.

### Team Statements (1 per team): 6 minutes (with PowerPoint)

Each debate team will prepare a six-minute PowerPoint presentation. Each presentation should have no more than two colors (including background and text) and be void of **images or animations**. However, tables may be used if they are simply for organizing text. These restrictions are designed to keep the focus of the debate on the topics, not on any emotional impact. Each team is limited to their 40-reference lists for their presentations. However, during the counterarguments, they may rely on the opposing team’s references. References must be cited

in-text during the presentation with ESA-style formatting (eg. Smith et al. 2010). Please include a reference cited slide at the end of the presentation to be left up during the cross-examination by the other team (although you do not need to spend time talking on this slide).

**These formal presentations are the only part of the debates where the speaker is required to stand at the podium.** For the rest of the time, participants may stand or sit at their tables with their teams when speaking. Teams should designate a member for giving their statement prior to the debate.

**IMPORTANT:** Each team is responsible for uploading their presentations at the Presentation Upload Room by November 13, 2022 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

**Cross-examinations (1 per team): 5 minutes (clarification questions, not debating!)**

The team conducting the cross-examination of the opposing team may ask questions. If needed, the opposing team being cross-examined may ask clarification questions such as “can you repeat that?”, “can you clarify”, “can you define that term?”. Remember that it will reflect poorly on your team if you interrupt each other.

**Rebuttals (2 per team): 5 minutes (1st rebuttal) and then 4 minutes (2nd rebuttal)**

Use rebuttals to respond to questions/arguments, clarify your points and strengthen your argument. Rebuttals can and should be presented by more than one person from the same team. During rebuttals, you may make statements to support your point or ask the other team questions, but they will be unable to respond until their rebuttal. Similarly, if your team is asked a question during rebuttals, **do not answer until your rebuttal period.**

**Questions: 10 minutes for judges and for audience members**

A microphone will be provided near the front of the room. Judges will ask any questions they have first followed by the general audience. Questions may be directed at either team or both teams. Anyone from a team may answer. To prevent a single audience member from taking up the entire time, audience members will be limited to a single question. If you are asked a question, please respond to that question only. Each team will have 1 minute to answer each question. Do not use the question-and-answer session to continue debating the other team.

**2022 ESA Student Debates Outline**

**Total time: 3 hours**

5 min	SAC chair	Introductory remarks
5 min	SDS member	Topic 1, Unbiased Introduction
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 1, Team 1
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 1, Team 2
5 min	Cross-examination of Team 1 by Team 2	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 1	

5 min	Cross-examination of Team 2 by Team 1	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 2	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 1	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 2	
10 min	Questions from judges + audience	
5 min	Break	
5 min	SDS member	Topic 2, Unbiased Introduction
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 2, Team 1
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 2, Team 2
5 min	Cross-examination of Team 1 by Team 2	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 1	
5 min	Cross-examination of Team 2 by Team 1	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 2	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 1	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 2	
10 min	Questions from judges + audience	
5 min	Break	
5 min	SDS member	Topic 3, Unbiased Introduction
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 3, Team 1
6 min	Team Statement (at podium)	Topic 3, Team 2
5 min	Cross-examination of Team 1 by Team 2	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 1	
5 min	Cross-examination of Team 2 by Team 1	
5 min	First rebuttal by Team 2	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 1	
4 min	Second rebuttal by Team 2	
10 min	Questions from judges + audience	
5 min	Concluding Remarks	

## Timing of presentations

The moderators will time each section and you will be stopped at the end of your allotted time – budget time wisely. Teams may keep track of time with cell phones or other devices as long as they are silent. ESA will provide a large digital timer with a countdown for rebuttals and cross examinations. PowerPoint presentations will be timed by a moderator that will give indications of the remaining time (like a typical symposium talk). Please do not go over time as the judges may choose to penalize teams that go over time.

## Electronic Devices Policy

Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc) are allowed to be used during the debates. However, please silence all devices and use them in a professional, non-distracting manner.

## Evaluation of the Debates

A panel of judges will evaluate each team's arguments in the actual debates and choose a "winner". There will be a winner of each pair of debates and an overall best debate team. The winning teams will be recognized at the ESA Student Awards Session with a plaque for the team and certificates for all team members. The best overall debate team wins a \$500 cash prize and a trophy for their team. In addition to evaluation by the judges, all teams will be evaluated by the debate organizers based on how well they followed the debate rules and guidelines provided by the organizers in this document. The following table includes areas of assessment, but additional categories may be included. Be sure to submit work in a timely and professional manner.

Subject	Assessment Criteria
Reference Lists	Submission by deadline
Total Number of Sources (peer reviewed or other)	Guidelines followed
Format (ESA Style for JIS)	Guidelines followed
250 Word Synopsis	Submission by deadline
Word Limit	Guidelines followed
PowerPoint Presentation	Submission by deadline and format followed (colors/graphics)
Manuscript	Complete, timely, professional

The rubric used by the judges is provided at the end of this document.

## Recording of the Debates

The debates will be recorded. A permission release form, found at the end of this document, must be filled out and signed by each member of the team (one form per person) and returned to the Student Debate Subcommittee. Forms must be submitted electronically to [esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com) before the team will be considered an official debate team.

### Important Dates:

Due Dates	Item
June 20, 2022	Deadline to sign up and send team information to SDS.
June 26, 2022	Teams will be informed of which topic/position they are assigned. Topic/position preferences indicated by teams and emailed to SDS will be reviewed, but not guaranteed.
July 10, 2022	Questions/ comments about debate topics must be submitted to SDS via email.
August 15, 2022	Reference lists due to SDS (no more than 40) via email (Debating teams only). All reference lists must contain the debate topic and debate team member names in the header.
August 30, 2022	250-word synopsis (reviewed by the faculty advisor) of topic and position due to the SDS. This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. This will be the abstract that the judges evaluate. All summaries must contain in the header both the debate topic and team member names.

September 10, 2022	Questions pertaining to the opposing team's reference list due to SDS and opposing team contact person via email.
September 16, 2022	Clarifications by opposing teams on the 250-word synopsis must be voiced by this date.
September 28, 2022	250-word unbiased introductions due from SDS introductory speakers. This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. All introductions must contain in the header both the debate topic and the writer's name.
October 15, 2022	600-word summary due to SDS (All teams and unbiased introductions). This should be reviewed by a faculty advisor and formatted for publication in the <i>Journal of Insect Science</i> . This should be a polished, complete summary, not a rough draft or outline. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list. All documents must contain in the header the debate topic and the team member names.
October 22, 2022	6-7 minute PowerPoint presentation due to SDS (Debating teams); 5 minute PowerPoint presentation due to SDS (Unbiased Introduction presenters).
October 29, 2022	Comments on the summary due by SDS (organizers will send to the debate teams and to the unbiased introduction speakers any additional revisions or updates).
November 13, 2022	PowerPoint presentations to be uploaded at the Presentation Upload Room at the Vancouver Convention Centre.
November 13 to November 16, 2022	ESA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

January 31, 2023	Final version of the 600-word debate summary due to SDS for submission to JIS (reviewed by faculty advisor) with no more than 40 references. This should be your complete and final version for publication. Include citations in the body of the text and the full references cited list.
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## ESA Student Debates 2022

**Debate Title:** Entomology beyond research and education

### Debate Topics:

**Topic 1: Is forensic entomology viable in criminal case investigations and court cases today?**

Stance: YES

Stance: NO

**Topics 2: Are insects being treated ethically in scientific research?**

Stance: YES

Stance: NO

**Topic 3: Entertainment, art, and social media can be effective at informing the general public about entomology.**

Stance: YES

Stance: NO

Thank you for your interest in ESA Student Debates and good luck!

### The SAC Student Debate Subcommittee:

Raman Sandhi, SAC Chair  
Victoria Pickens, SAC Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Bello  
Sarah Elzay  
Sara Salgado  
[esastudentdebates@gmail.com](mailto:esastudentdebates@gmail.com)

## Judging Rubric

Debate winners will be the team with the highest number of points for each topic. The overall debate winner will be the single team (of the six teams) that has the highest number of points. The final criteria is based on meeting submission deadlines and will be completed by the debate organizers.

Criteria	Goals
Introduction (20 points)	The team adequately introduced their position, as well as provided some basic information about the shortcomings of their opponent's position. The introduction was clear, easy to understand, and well organized.
Cross examination (10 points)	The team asked insightful questions that either clarified important information or laid groundwork for arguments they made in rebuttals. They did not use cross examination to argue with other teams (they asked questions – such as clarification questions on content).
Rebuttals (20 points)	Teams responded to arguments made by the other team instead of restating previous points. They showed a clear understanding of the other team's arguments and provided thoughtful responses. Individuals in the team worked well together.
Use of Time (5 points)	During the whole debate, the team made good use of their allotted time. They adhered to time limits and were not repetitive or disorganized.
Support of Literature (10 points)	The team used the literature to support points during their introduction and rebuttals. The team demonstrated familiarity with their own references and those of their opponents.
Abstract (5 points)	The abstract provided by the team reflected their stance in the debate. It was well organized and easy to understand.

Team organization & cohesiveness (5 pts)	The team worked together collaboratively during the debates. Team members behaved in a professional manner.
Response to questions from judges & audience (5 pts)	The teams clearly answered the questions asked and provided examples or referenced citations to support their response. Responses were well thought out and informative.
Meeting deadlines	This will be completed by debate organizers. Failure to submit items by the deadline will result in a deduction of 2 points per late item per day or incomplete/incorrect submission.
Total Points	<b>80</b>

## Judging Form

**Debate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Notes	Points Awarded
Introduction (20 points)		
Cross examination (10 points)		
Rebuttals (20 points)		
Use of Time (5 points)		

Support of Literature (10 points)		
Abstract (5 points)		
Team organization & cohesiveness (5 pts)		
Response to questions from judges & audience (5 pts)		
Meeting deadlines		
Total Points	<b>80</b>	

## **Entomological Society of America Student Debates**

### **Recording and Materials Release Form**

I authorize the Entomological Society of America (ESA) to record, copy, distribute or otherwise use photographs and video recordings of the student debates.

I understand and agree that:

- I will not receive payment or any other compensation in connection with this recording;
- ESA may publish and distribute copies of the images or videos in any format, including but not limited to print publications and video streaming websites;
- I have had a chance to discuss this form with the ESA Student Affairs Committee and have received complete answers to all my questions; and,
- I release ESA from any and all liability that may or could arise from the taking or use of these recordings and/or photographs.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Province/Region:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP/Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_