

ADJUDICATING THE DEBATES

Becoming an adjudicator

Adjudicators are regular people from all over Uganda and abroad with a wide range of backgrounds, from farmers to lawyers, teachers to development workers, housewives (and househusbands!) to university students.

They are volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise, and without whom the debates could not take place.

You must be over 18 to become an adjudicator!

If you are a teacher, you cannot adjudicate in a debate involving your own school.

To become an adjudicator, **click here** to learn more about the debates, an application form to download or to fill online and details of upcoming training sessions. Send the application form to us (gisinitiative@mail2girl.com), or call ([+256780239066](tel:+256780239066)) for more information.

What are the vital skills needed?

- An open mind is essential – ability to see both sides of an argument
- Good listener and ability to evaluate
- Be able to give constructive criticism and feedback

The following can be helpful but are not required

– Please contact us even if you don't have all of them!

- Access to your own transport – some schools are off the beaten track!
- Experience with debating or public speaking
- An interest in developmental global issues especially Education and with Special focus on Girl Child Education.

Prior to the debate

How do I know when a debate is on?

Our 2017 debates will take place on fixed days as below;

Divisional Competition Dates:

Central: 6th/June/2017

Kawempe: 7th/June/2017

Rubaga: 8th/June/2017

Makindye: 9th/June/2017

District Competition: 12th/June/2017

When we need adjudicators for a debate, we contact the volunteer adjudicators in the area to see who is available on the date of the debate. We aim to give around 10-14 days' notice prior to a debate. We shall be sending you our regular debates bulletins and updates and the latest news as regards the competitions. You can also frequently visit our website, like us on Facebook, follow us on twitter and also join us up on Whatsapp and other social Medias.

What happens when I agree to adjudicate a debate?

We will send you, by post or email - whichever is convenient for you - an information sheet, outlining all the details of the debate, including date, time, place, schools involved, the motion and what to bring. We will also send you a copy of the marking sheet, and if you are going to be the chief adjudicator we will send you the results sheet too.

What do I need to do when I arrive?

The chief adjudicator should ask the students to fill in their names on the results sheet – and the chairperson will also want to get the adjudicator’s names to introduce them.

The chief adjudicator should also agree a signal with the chairperson so that they will know when the adjudicators are finished marking and they can announce the next speaker.

The assistant adjudicators might like to get the names of each speaker from the chief, and they should also fill out the details of the motion and two teams at the top of their marking sheets.

FAQ about being the chief adjudicator:

How is the role of the chief adjudicator different from the assistant adjudicators, and what do I need to remember if I am the chief?

The chief adjudicator is usually the most experienced of the panel of three.

The chief adjudicator needs to remember to:

- Get the teams’ details filled in on the results sheet at the start of the debate.
- Agree a signal with the chairperson to let them know the adjudicators are ready for the next speaker.
- Handle over all three marking sheets, the results sheet and the timekeeper’s sheet back to the GISI debates Manager after the debate.

The chief adjudicator is also the person who announces the results and delivers feedback to the teams at the end of debate.

Marking the debate

While the debaters are speaking, the adjudicators are free to take notes, but it is not compulsory - everyone is different in the approach they take! Some take a lot of notes, others take very few. The adjudicators’ notes are confidential and they do not necessarily have to give them to GISI after the debate. Some people like to make a note of key concepts, or quotes, or make a mark every time a good statistic or fact is introduced if you see they would be good to use in the betterment of the competitions, please feel free to share them.

It is a good idea to keep track of how many attempts at refutation or rebuttal are made and how good they are. You might want

to note how well a speaker delivered their speech, whether they had to read from notes etc. All of this will help you to recall the details of the debate when the adjudicators retire to add up their marks and reach a decision on who won, and when you are discussing what feedback to give to the teams.

After each speaker, the adjudicators will have a moment to fill in their scores on the marking sheet, before the chief adjudicator gives a signal to the chairperson to announce the next speaker.

Arriving at a decision

Once the captain of the proposition has concluded his/her summation and marks have been assigned, the adjudicating panel should take the timekeeper’s sheet and retire to another room to make its decision.

Adjudicators can begin by adding up their marks or discussing briefly their impressions of the debate.

When marks have been totalled, time penalties deducted and a decision made the chief will ask the panel for points and remarks that will be included in his/her feedback.

It is recommended that adjudicators spend a maximum of 10 minutes making their decision.

Assistant adjudicators should remember to sign their marking sheets and give them to the chief before

leaving the room. He/she will give them back to GISI with the overall results sheet. The chief should fill in the rest of the results sheet and sign it.

Announcing the result

The adjudicators return to the main room, where the chairperson will call the open forum to a close and ask the chief adjudicator to announce the result. It is best to give some feedback first, and then announce the result.

When announcing the result, the chief should state that the motion has been carried (in favour of the proposition) or defeated (in favour of the opposition). But you might need to add in 'That means that School X are the winners tonight' as not all members of the audience will be familiar with the formal way of announcing a debates result!

You can also tell them if the decision was unanimous (3-0) or by majority (2-1). You do not have to tell them which adjudicators were in favour or against which team.

Chief adjudicator's feedback

The chief adjudicator's feedback is a vital part of the debate. We recommend that it is addressed to the team as a whole rather than to any individual speaker, although you can and should give feedback to individual students after the debate if they ask you for more information.

Good feedback should include positive remarks and constructive criticism on the following areas:

- Definition of the motion (too narrow/too broad/just right).
- Research (clear evidence of adequate and relevant research).
- Content (appropriate and relevant).
- Refutation and rebuttal.
- Quoting of sources (range of named sources).
- Captain's summation (recap and analysis. No new arguments should be introduced).
- Team work (evidence of co-operation in preparation on the debate day).
- Time penalties.
- Confidence, communication skills, eye contact etc.
- Entertainment (humour, empathy etc.).

You can also give tips for what they could improve on next time, but try and give tips to both teams if you decide to do this!

Is it possible to award a draw?

The debates are a phase the adjudicators must come to a decision as to who won.

A team wants to see the marking sheet – am I allowed to show it to them?

No, you may give feedback either to the whole team or to the individual students, but please do not show or give them a copy of the marking sheet. The marks are confidential. If they have a further query about the marks they can contact the Debate manager immediately after announcing the results and we will look at the marking sheets and give them any relevant feedback on where they lost or gained marks.