

Debate Format

The Toronto Debating society follows *parliamentary* debate procedures. The timings presented here are for regular debates. For other formats, including Cross Examination debate, see [Timing](#).

Prime Minister

- **7 minutes**
- Announce resolution and define terms
- Give clear and precise case statement.
- Support case with several independent arguments.

Leader of the Opposition

- **7 minutes**
- Provide opposition philosophy
- Announce opposition countercase
- Introduce independent analysis
- Rebut PMC arguments

Member of the Government

- **5 minutes**
- Provide overviews
- Attack Opposition independent analysis
- Rebuild/review Government case
- Introduce new arguments

Member of the Opposition

- **5 minutes**
- Review Opposition philosophy
- Introduce new points and analysis
- Cover main issues
- Counter Member of Government

Leader of Opposition

- **2 minutes**
- Address main issues, add NO NEW ARGUMENTS
- Crystallize with new examples
- Provide dichotomies
- Conclusion

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Prime Minister

- **2 minutes**
- Summarize Round, add NO NEW ARGUMENTS
- Address crucial issues
- Crystallize with new examples
- Provide dichotomies
- Conclusion

Points of information (POI)

Points of information are a dynamic and enjoyable part of parliamentary debate. A point of information is a brief rejoinder (fifteen seconds or less) to the point then being made by the person speaking. It may be a concise statement or a pointed question.

Points of information are an integral part of parliamentary debating. A speaker who declines to accept any points may seem to fear the opponents arguments. On the other hand, a speaker who accepts too many points of information loses control of his or her speech. Usually, a constructive speaker will accept two or three points of information. Accepting them when offered shows that you are confident of your arguments and prepared to defend them.

To make a Point of Information; the member wishing to make the POI stands. The member speaking can either (1) Accept by acknowledging the member, (2) Defer by saying "wait a moment please", (3) Reject the POI by saying "no thank you" or wave them down. If the member speaking accepts the POI they should answer immediately and continue with their speech.