



The 2009 Premier's Debating Challenge

Entry Conditions

- The Premier's Debating Challenge is open to all government schools throughout NSW.
- The Challenge has 5 different divisions – Years 5&6, Years 7&8, Years 9&10, Year 11 (Sydney Metropolitan only) and Years 11&12.
- Schools may enter up to two teams in any division of the competition.
- The entry fee for the Premier's Debating Challenge is \$60.00 per team. Cheques should be made out to the “NSW Department of Education & Training”
- The Entry Form/Tax Invoice must be submitted before the due date. Schools should fax the Entry Form as soon as possible to register their entry and then post the original with payment.

Prizes

- All students involved will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation.
- Certificates will also be awarded to the teams who win their Zone.
- Medallions will be awarded to the team members of teams who reach the State Finals.
- A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the State Champions in each division.

Competition Rules

- The Premier's Debating Challenge involves one hour preparation debates. Teams will not know the topic or the side they are on until one hour prior to the start of the debate.
- Students from younger years may represent their school in higher divisions. For instance, a Year 10 student may compete in the Years 11&12 division.
- Where a school enters two teams, they will be designated Team A and Team B.
- Different students can make up a team for different debates, but no student may appear for both Team A and Team B. Once a student has appeared for Team A, they may not appear for Team B at any stage of the competition, and vice versa.
- Teams consist of four students with one acting as the team's adviser in the preparation room and during the debate.
- Team members should dress appropriately and display good manners. Under no circumstances are debaters to interject during the debate or question the adjudicator while the adjudication is being delivered. Necessary conversation during a debate must be conducted quietly.

Organisation

- The Premier's Debating Challenge is conducted by School Regions. A Regional Debating Coordinator will be responsible for the conduct of the competition up to and including the Regional Final.
- The State Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator will be responsible for the conduct of the competition from Regional level up to the State Final.
- Teams entering into the Premier's Debating Challenge are organised into Zones of four or more. The teams in a Zone debate each other in a round-robin competition to decide the Zone Winner.
- Where a school enters two teams, they will be placed in the same Zone.
- Zone debates are organised by the schools involved. The home school will be listed on the draw, and that school will contact their opponent and the adjudicator to arrange a suitable time and date for the debate.
- Zone Winners then proceed to a knock-out stage of the competition until a Regional Winner has been determined.
- The 10 Regional Winners compete in a series of knock-out finals to determine the State Champion. In the Years 7&8 division, the ten Regional Winners attend a three-day camp and compete in a series of debates to decide the State Champion.

Adjudication

- In Sydney Metropolitan Regions, the Regional Coordinators will appoint experienced adjudicators from a list provided by the State Coordinator. These adjudicators appear on the draw and oversee an entire Zone.

Adjudication (cont.)

- In Country Regions, adjudicators will be secured by the home school in consultation with their Regional Coordinator.
- Under no circumstances is any member of staff from the home school to officiate at an inter-school debate in this competition.
- A free adjudicator training course will be held at Lewisham at the end of February. Please see the website for details.

Support

- Different divisions of The Premier's Debating Challenge are supported by the English Speaking Union, the Botanic Gardens Trust, Teach NSW and the University of Sydney.



Public Education



The English-Speaking Union



**Botanic Gardens Trust
SYDNEY**



The University of Sydney

Contact Details

The Premier's Debating Challenge is organised by The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education & Training.

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Years 11&12 Division

- Entry Forms are due by **Monday 16 February 2009**.
- This is the senior division of the Premier's Debating Challenge, and teams comprised of students from any year at high school may enter.
- The speaking time is **ten minutes** with a warning bell at eight minutes. A continuous bell will be rung at eleven minutes.
- The competition commences in March with Finals held in June and July. The State Final will be held on **Friday 7 August** at the University of Sydney. All schools are welcome to attend the Final.
- The State Champions receive the Hume Barbour Trophy which was won in 2008 by Smiths Hill High School.
- The Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 11&12 is supported by the University of Sydney's Faculty of Education & Social Work.

Year 11 Sydney Metro

- Entry Forms are due by **Monday 2 March 2009**.
- The Year 11 division is only open to schools in the Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Western Sydney and Western Sydney Regions.
- The speaking time is **ten minutes** with a warning bell at eight minutes. A continuous bell will be rung at eleven minutes.
- The competition commences in June with Finals held in August. The State Final will be held on **Monday 7 September** in the Botanic Gardens.
- The State Champions receive the Karl Cramp Trophy which was won in 2008 by Caringbah High School.
- The Premier's Debating Challenge for Year 11 is supported by the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Years 9&10 Division

- Entry Forms are due by **Monday 2 March 2009**.
- The speaking time is **eight minutes** with a warning bell at six minutes. A continuous bell will be rung at nine minutes.
- The competition commences in May with Finals in August and September. The State Final will be held on **Monday 16 November** at the Art Gallery of NSW. All schools are welcome to attend the State Final.
- The State Champions receive the Teasdale Cup which was won in 2008 by Gosford High School.
- The Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 9&10 is supported by Teach NSW.

Years 7&8 Division

- Entry Forms are due by **Monday 2 March 2009**.
- The speaking time is **six minutes** with a warning bell at four minutes. A continuous bell will be rung at seven minutes.
- The competition commences in July with Regional Finals in October.
- The ten Regional Winners attend a three day Championships camp at The Women's College, University of Sydney, in December. There they will compete in a round-robin competition as well as attending advanced workshops on debating. (Schools involved at this stage should be aware that they will incur travel and accommodation costs).
- The State Champions receive the English Speaking Union Trophy, which was won in 2008 by Inverell High School.
- The Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7&8 is supported by the English Speaking Union.

SUMMARY	Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 5&6	Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 7&8	Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 9&10	Premier's Debating Challenge for Year 11	Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 11&12
Which students can enter?	All Primary School students	Years 7&8 students only	Students in Year 10 and below	Students in Year 11 and below in Sydney Metropolitan schools	All High School students
How many teams can enter from each school?	2	2	2	2	2
What are the speaking times?	4 minutes, warning bell at 3 minutes	6 minutes, warning bell at 4 minutes	8 minutes, warning bell at 6 minutes	10 minutes, warning bell at 8 minutes	10 minutes, warning bell at 8 minutes
What type of preparation is expected?	1 hour preparation	1 hour preparation	1 hour preparation	1 hour preparation	1 hour preparation
How are the topics for the debates obtained?	Country: mailed by Coordinators City: adjudicators	Country: mailed by Coordinators City: adjudicators	Country: mailed by Coordinators City: adjudicators	Country: mailed by Coordinators City: adjudicators	Country: mailed by Coordinators City: adjudicators
Who appoints the adjudicators?	Regional Coordinators	Regional Coordinators	Regional Coordinators	Regional Coordinators	State Coordinator and Regional Coordinators
When will the competition begin?	April	May	May	June	March
When is the State Final?	8-11 November, Stanwell Tops	9- 11 December, University of Sydney	Mon 16 November, Art Gallery of NSW	Mon 7 September, Botanic Gardens	Fri 7 August, University of Sydney
What is the name of the perpetual trophy?	Hunter Challenge Trophy (since 1995)	English Speaking Union Trophy (since 1998)	Teasdale Cup (since 1950)	Karl Cramp Trophy (since 1953)	Hume Barbour Trophy (since 1930)