

# APDA!

That Thing We Do  
(American Parliamentary Debate Association)

# The League!

- Tournaments!
  - 5 rounds, 2 teams of 2 debaters each
  - Gov & Opp Teams
  - Mostly cases, sometimes motions debate
  - Breaks of all 4-1 to varsity, and top 4ish to novice
  - Hybridizing! (debating with people on different teams)
- Equity!
  - A thing that is growing on APDA and is much more prominent here than other debate forms!
  - Equity Officers at Tournaments
  - Norms around content warning cases & the type of arguments made

# Rounds

- Two teams of two people directly compete against each other.
- The Government Team (Gov) opens the round by representing a prepared case on the topic of their choosing
  - Gov gets to choose the topic of debate by presenting a case statement and answering questions for 15 minutes. The case statement may also have a background that presents info about the topic
  - They have a prewritten speech about that topic of debate
- The Opposition Team (Opp) has to answer the arguments made in the Government team's case, with the ultimate goal of showing that the case is a bad idea
  - Opp gets 15 minutes of prep, during which they are allowed/supposed to ask questions about case statement to Gov
- Neither team is allowed to cite outside sources, apart from what is in case background. All arguments have to be logically justified
- Judges are supposed to adjudicate based only upon the arguments made by the two teams in the round

# Round Format

- Case statement, background, construct
- 15 minutes of POCs
- Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7:30
- Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8:30
- Member of Government (MG): 8:30
- Member of Opposition (MO): 8:30
- Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): 4:30
- Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5:30

Gov has a Prime Minister who gives PMC and PMR, as well as a Member of Government which gives, guess what, the MG

Opp has a Leader of Opposition who gives LOC and LOR and a Member of Opposition who gives, you guessed it, the MO

# Constructives

- PMC
  - 7 minutes 30 seconds: pre-written speech
  - Typically has 2-3 Independent Points (Contentions for the NSDA kids)
    - Each contains warrants (reasons things are true) that lead to impacts (the effect)
- LOC
  - 8 minutes 30 seconds: builds Opp case & responds to PMC
  - 2-3 Independent Points of “off case” (LOC)
  - Responds to all of “on case” (PMC)

# Member Speeches

- MG
  - 8 minutes 30 seconds: responding to off case and frontlining (rebuilding) on case
  - About half of the time is spent responding to the Independent Points in LOC, the other half is spent responding to the responses to PMC
  - Can also contain independent offense!
- MO
  - 8 minutes 30 seconds: rebuilds off case and responds to the frontlining of on case
  - Has to respond to any independent offense in MG

# Rebuttals

- PMR & LOR

- No new arguments, apart from that PMR can respond to anything new in MO
  - POOs: Points of Order
  - Called during Rebuttals to flag new arguments in the other team's speech
  - Someone says point of order, time stops for the person to call it to tell the judge what they think is new, the other team tries to show the judge where it was in other speeches and then time starts again
- Does most of the weighing (comparing the importance of impacts) in the round
- Less line-by-line, more big picture
- The final speeches of the round, write the judge's ballots for them!
- LOR has to pre-empt the weighing that PMR might go for

# Questions?

- Reach out to Anna Pinkerton at [annapinkerton@gwu.edu](mailto:annapinkerton@gwu.edu) or on Insta at @annaxpinkerton
- All current board member's emails are on the website's home page, feel free to email them too!