

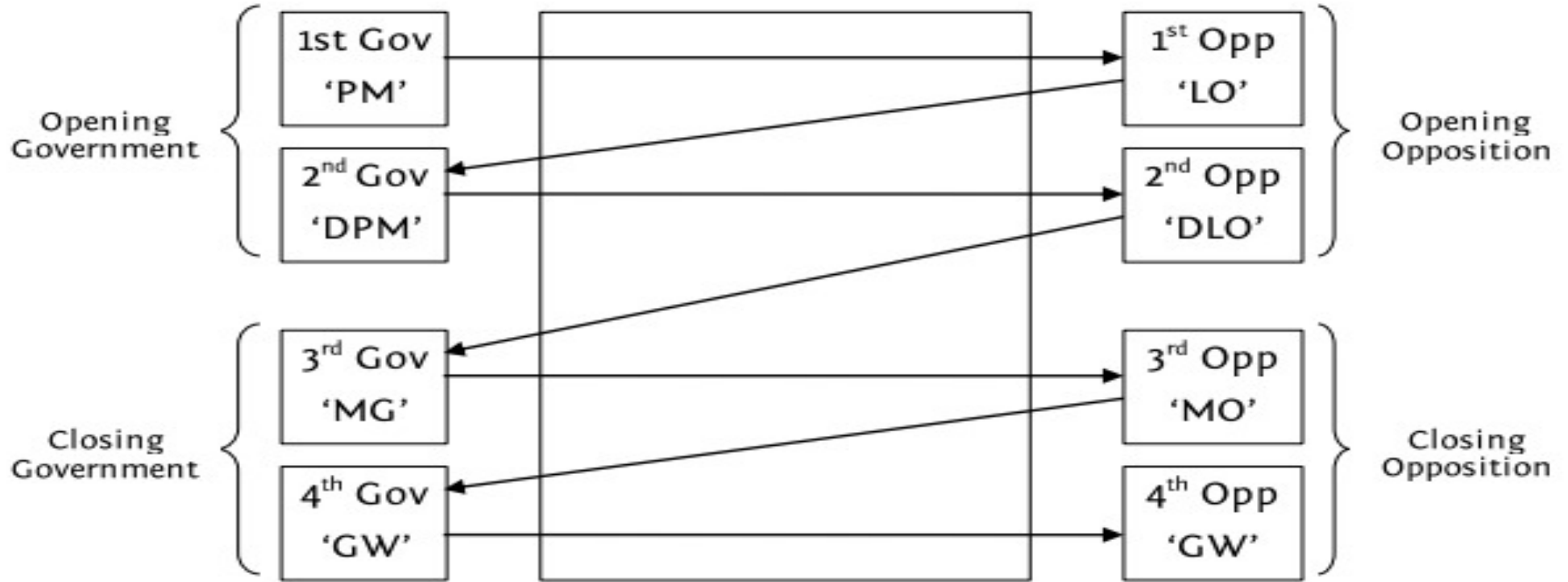
Debater and Adjudicator Briefing

The basics of BP

We are assuming a level of familiarity with the format, but note:

- 15 minutes preparation
- **7 minute speeches**
- Points of information (between **1 and 6 minutes**)
- No internet research allowed

The basics of BP



What is an extension?

- New arguments
- New rebuttal
- New examples
- New analysis or application of existing arguments
- New metric/criteria

The best extensions are original, well proven, and important to the debate



OPPOSING THE MOTION

Opposition **need not** argue for an alternative to the Government policy. However, if the motion type allows for a policy, Opposition **may** choose to advance a **counter-proposition** or an **alternative**.



COUNTER-PROPOSITIONS

If OO chooses to advance a counter-proposition, they have the **same level of fiat as OG**.

Counter-props **must be**:

- ✓ Advanced by the Leader of Opposition
- ✓ Mutually exclusive to the model proposed by OG

Counter-props **alter the comparative** in the debate.

- ✓ All teams must compare the policy proposed by Government to the counter-prop
- ✓ Teams argue about the relative benefits and harms of the OG model and the OO counter-prop

ALTERNATIVES



Opposition teams sometimes choose to suggest a range of viable alternative arguments and solutions instead of committing to a single counter-proposition.

However, **unlike counter-props**:

- ✓ Alternatives do not alter the comparative in the debate
- ✓ CO is not bound by whatever alternatives OO suggests, whereas they must abide by the OO counter-proposition (if one is suggested)
- ✓ Opposition teams do not have fiat power when suggesting alternatives, and Government teams may question the feasibility of said alternatives

In order to be persuasive, alternatives should be:

- ✓ Detailed and substantiated
- ✓ Mutually exclusive to OG's model

Squirelling, vague definitions, and challenges

A definition may be considered a 'squirrel' if it is literally inconsistent with the words of the actual motion that was set or if it is not debatable.

If the definition provided by the OG is invalid, **then it can be challenged**. This must be done during the OL's speech. If the OL neglects to challenge the definition, other Opposition speakers **may** challenge this definition. In these scenarios, it is advisable for CO to offer Points of Clarification to OG. These scenarios are exceedingly rare, and teams should not pursue this strategy lightly.

If the definition is challenged, judges must weigh the contributions teams made to the debate based on the accepted definition at the time they gave their speeches.

A **vague definition** does not clearly answer certain vital questions about what is meant by the motion or what will happen under the policy Government is defending. Beyond prompting requests for clarification from the Opposition, or criticism from them for the policy being vague, there is nothing more that should arise from a vague definition.

other 'rules'

- **Knifing:** Closing teams are required to be consistent with their opening teams, except in rare circumstances (e.g. clearly false factual claim, squirrelling, etc.) It is okay for closing teams to disagree about prioritisation.
- **New material:** For the purposes of what is deemed 'new material' in whip speeches - new weighing, framing, direct rebuttal and impacting are allowed.
- **Burdens:** Burdens on teams cannot be created simply by another team asserting that they exist. and judges should not accept these assertions

Points of Information



- ✓ Offered between 1st and 6th minute of the speaker's speech
- ✓ Offered by the opposing bench
- ✓ Up to 15 seconds

Debaters

- ✓ Accept at least 1 POI per speaker
- ✓ Take 3 POIs across both speakers (encouraged)
- ✗ "Coded POIs" where speakers reveal the content of the POI before being accepted (e.g. "see the law!")
- ✗ "Points of Clarification" used to ask POIs, instead of being used to clarify aspects of the model

Judges

- ✓ Track and evaluate POI engagement during debates
- ✓ Comment on POI engagement in feedback to teams
- ✓ If a speaker did not accept a POI, remind the room to accept POIs after the speaker's speech
- ✓ Intervene by calling "order" if the person offering the POI is still speaking after 15 seconds, or after being cut off by the speaker

Evaluating POIs

- ✓ Evaluate the quality of POIs and POI responses as you would any other piece of analysis in the debate
- ✓ Failure to accept a POI indicates a reduced level of engagement. You may:
 - ✓ Lower speaker scores for the speaker that did not accept POIs to reflect their reduced engagement
 - ✓ Adjust the margin of victory for teams
 - ✓ Flip close calls between teams
- ✗ Automatic loss for failing to take a POI
- ✗ Seeing a lack of POI as equivalent to taking a damaging POI
- ✗ Penalise speakers who were not offered any POIs

Motions

Types

- Policy motions: THW
- Values motions: THS/THO/THR/THP/THBT
- Actor motions: TH, as X, would

Reminders

- If you need clarification on a motion, ask the CA team
- Set up debates fairly and not unnecessarily narrowly (e.g. to a certain country)

Motion Type: This House Prefers

- ✓ Value judgment debate on truth of statement
- ✓ Opposition cannot select their own comparative
- ✓ Must defend comparative provided by the motion

THP X to Y

THP conscription by lottery as a means of enrolling people into the army to the aggressive recruitment of volunteers

Government argues for conscription by lottery



Opposition argues for the aggressive recruitment of volunteers

THP X

THP conscription by lottery as a means of enrolling people into the army

Government argues for conscription by lottery



Opposition argues for enrollment policies in the status quo

THP a world in which X

THP a world in which organized religion does not exist

Government argues for an **alternative world where organized religion never existed**



Opposition argues for **the world as it is in the status quo**

- ✓ Discuss how the alternative world would have developed without organized religion (similar to counterfactuals in THR motions)
- ✓ Use common sense in assessing when the new world diverged from the status quo
- ✗ Arguments about the transition between status quo and the alternative world (e.g. discussing backlash from the demise of organized religion)

A judge's role

Take notes

Write down what speakers are actually saying, plus any feedback

Keep order

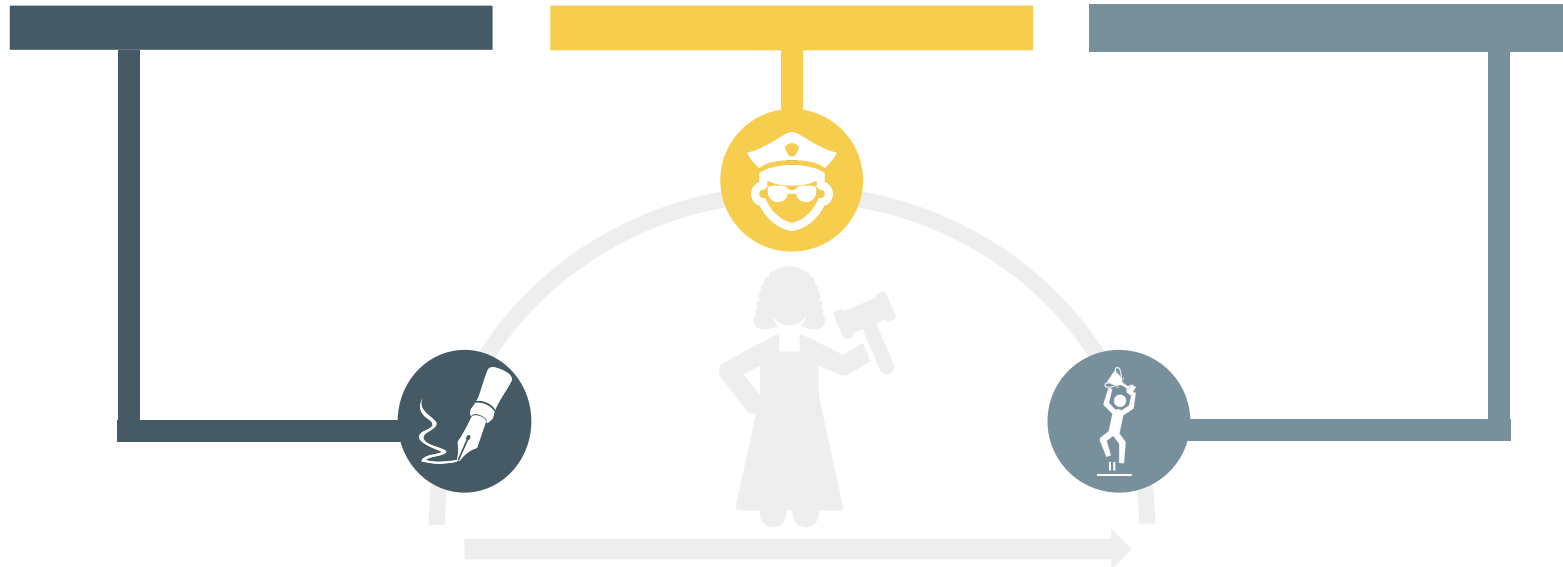
- Facilitate introductions
- Enforce rules of debate
- Time speeches
- Deal with technical issues

Track who is winning

Assess the debate as it unfolds, by examining:

- Robustness of analysis
- Importance of arguments
- Engagement

Be comparative

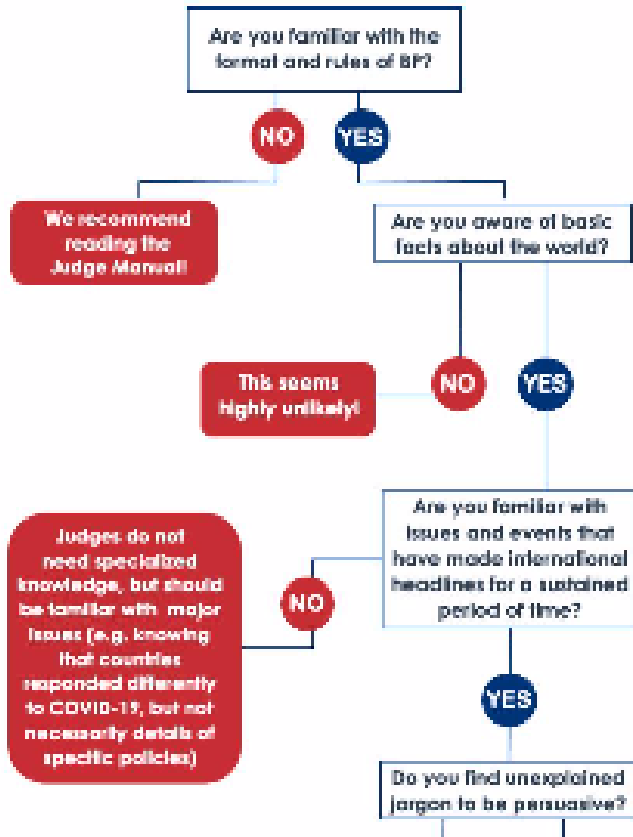


'Average intelligent voter'

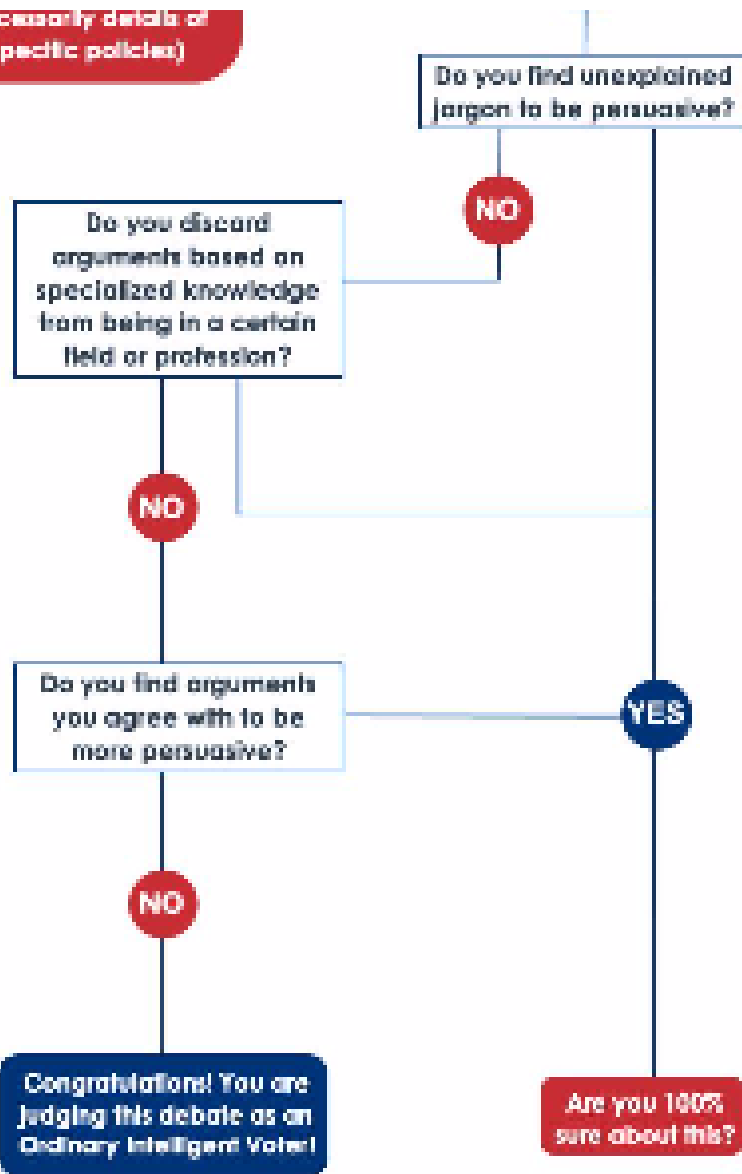
- Does not have any pre-formed views about any topic
- Does not come from anywhere in particular
- Does not understand any technical vocabulary or examples which are not well explained
- Has a general knowledge of world history / current affairs
- Is capable of logically following and analysing a debate
- Is familiar with the rules of BP

Are You an Ordinary Intelligent Voter?

Take this quiz to find out!



necessarily details of specific policies)



Types of arguments

- No one type of argument is automatically more persuasive than another
 - e.g. 'Principled' vs. 'practical'
 - e.g. 'Structural' vs. 'empirical'
- Ordinary people can and often are persuaded by value-based or moral arguments (provided of course, that they are proven). These should not be dismissed by judges due to a lack of 'practical impacts'.

'style'

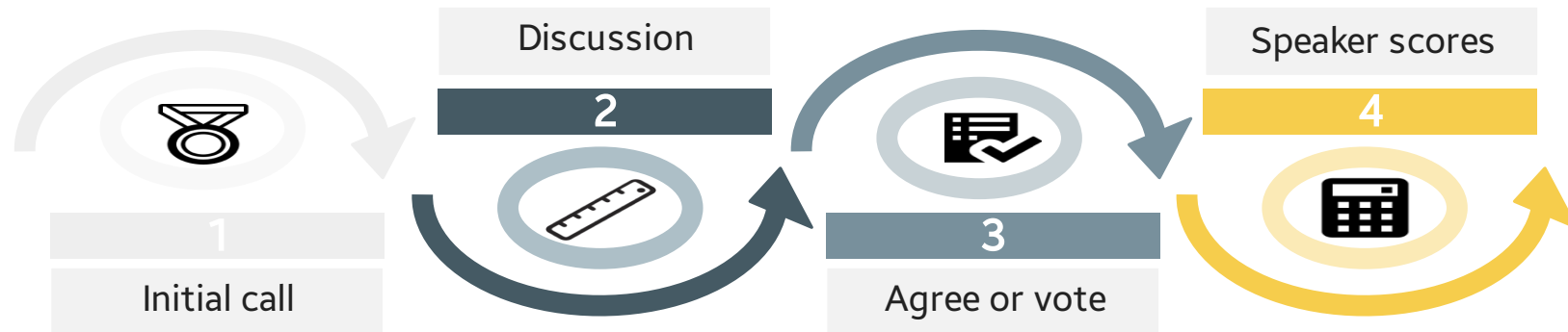
- Subjective judgements of good style should not carry any weight in judging BP debating at an international tournament. But this does not mean style is irrelevant.
- Reasons are more compellingly delivered to the degree that:
 - They are comprehensible.
 - They clearly and precisely convey the speaker's meaning.
 - They effectively convey the emotional, moral, practical or other significance of the speaker's claim.
- It is tempting but wrong to think that arguments in debating can be assessed through pure, cold, emotionless logic unaffected by language or tone. Making and assessing arguments is impossible unless one attaches a certain significance to outcomes, principles or claims, and appropriate use of language and tone can convey such significance.
- Rhetoric cannot replace logical analysis - but rhetoric can amplify the effect of your logical analysis. Persuasive rhetoric does not necessarily need to be complex, so long as it communicates the significance of your point.

IMPORTANT Reminders

- There is no such thing as an automatic win/loss
- Teams do not 'fall out of the debate' if unresponded to
- For a rule violation (e.g. new arguments at whip) – you remove the advantage of the violation. Only penalise a team for harming the debate (e.g. squirrelling)
- You penalise equity violations to the extent that they make a speaker unpersuasive - objectionable argumentation is unlikely to be persuasive to the 'average intelligent voter'

Deliberation

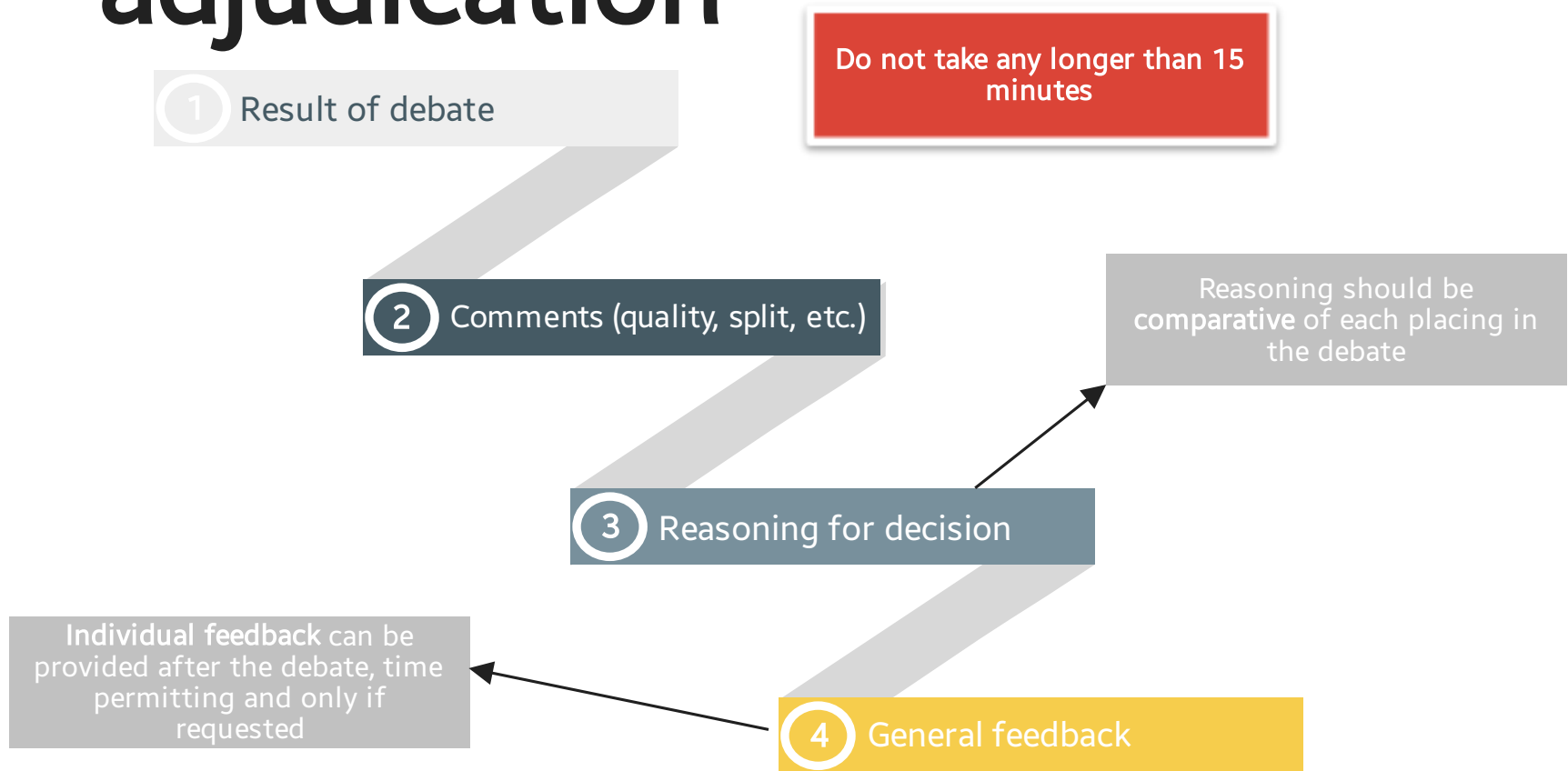
- Chairs should:
 - Allow a short time for the panel to consider their decision/notes
 - Ask each member of the panel for their order, before stating their own
 - Guide deliberation
 - Facilitate a vote, if necessary
 - Ensure a completed ballot within 15 minutes (suggest calling at a vote at 13 minutes)



Speaker points

- Refer to the WUDC speaker scale: <https://scales.imperialdebating.org/speaker.html>
- Use the range
- Check for accuracy in the ballot

Delivering an oral adjudication



Concluding thoughts

- Please be responsible for any conflicts you have
- Please submit feedback
 - Chair judge scale: <https://links.imperialdebating.org/scales/chair>
 - Wing and trainee judge scale: <https://links.imperialdebating.org/scales/wing>
- Please be respectful to all teams, adjudicators and volunteers