



Ethics Olympiad Senior School Judge's Guidelines

The aim of the event is to support and foster intellectual curiosity of young people. We know that they have questions about the big ideas that have engaged philosophers throughout the ages. What we would like to see are students that can discuss those questions with other people, especially in an educational setting. Thanks for supporting the event as a judge. You are providing these intelligent and inquisitive students with the opportunity to engage in a range of ethical discussions about some of the most pressing issues in their lives.

Reasonable disagreement

The cases and questions are designed to address controversial issues. Your assessment of the teams should be based on the quality of their arguments, not on whether they adopted one position rather than another. The team that makes the strongest argument should be recognised. Moral decisions are made case by case based on applying critical thought to these difficult situations. When evaluating teams, judges should not let agreement/disagreement with the team's conclusion influence their assessment.

Research

Successful presentations should include a clear and detailed understanding of the cases under discussion. Students should be prepared to identify sources of facts gained through their own research. While research is helpful, even necessary as a learning tool, judges should focus predominantly on the quality of arguments presented not on their understanding of the stories.

Scoring

While we encourage you to use the score sheet below you do not need to share the scores with students. We encourage you to use the criteria on the scoresheet to provide them with feedback about strengths and weaknesses

Presentation style

The focus of the Ethics Olympiad is on the arguments the students provide. This means that judges must evaluate, and only evaluate, a team on aspects of its presentation that relate directly to the four criteria identified on the judge's score-sheet. Judges may not consider in their scoring other aspects of the team's presentation (e.g. the voice quality of presenters, whether they maintain eye contact with the judges, etc.)

Ethical theories

Ethical theories and other moral perspectives (such as professional codes) can be useful for drawing out what is ethically significant in a case. However, the mere mention of an ethical theory or other moral perspective does not, by itself, strengthen the presentation.