

CALL FOR ENTRY

SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition

– ensuring that science becomes part of our everyday dialogue

Attention: Debates and Science educators

We invite all schools with a keen interest in debating – but in this instance from a scientific stance – to enter the 2016 SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition.

The primary objective of the competition is to stimulate interest amongst learners to study towards careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology (SET) by researching and debating high-level topics. It also aims to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, technology and engineering in South Africa.

Who may enter?

Learners from grades 9 – 11 who are:

- interested in developing their scientific research and information literacy skills;
- critical thinkers; and
- willing to work as a team to present logical, clear arguments.

At least two of the learners must take science-related subjects at school.

How does it work?

The SAASTA Schools Debates structure is not based on proposition/opposition presentations, but allows debaters to engage with one another and move toward a common resolution. Perhaps one of the most interesting features is the mini-imbizos by means of which learners get to interact with one another and share ideas through breakaway discussions and by making use of social media.

Closing date for entries: 20 February 2016

Only 10 schools per province will be chosen.

Provincial workshops for all successful teams: 16 April 2016

Teams will attend workshops in their various provinces before start of competitions.

Provincial competitions: 14, 21 and 28 May 2016

Teams will compete against each other in their provinces.

National Final: 6 October 2016

The selection process

Due to its popularity and the fact that the competition is limited to 10 schools per province, each school has to submit a speech to be judged by external adjudicators. The schools per province participating in the 2016 competition will be shortlisted from these speeches.

Speeches must be submitted in either of the following formats:

- Written (400 words); or
- Voice recording (4 minutes + script of 400 words); or
- Video clip (4 minutes + script of 400 words)

The speech topic is the following: Do you think nanotechnology should be used in cleaning polluted water?

Guidelines on the video, essay and voice recordings, as well as additional research information, will be provided to interested schools together with an entry form.

After the speeches have been submitted, the external adjudicator team will choose 10 winning entries per province. These schools will then enter the competition by participating in provincial workshops as well as competitions.

Interested?

To receive an entry form and detailed information, please send an email with your name, telephone number, school name and return email address or fax number to lizelle@wwmedia.co.za.

Also visit www.saasta.ac.za or check in on our Facebook page – SAASTA Debates – for more information.

Contact details:

Lizelle de Bruin
Wordwise Media: Project Manager
Tel: 021 976 3366
Fax: 021 979 5343
Email: lizelle@wwmedia.co.za



Guidelines and topic for entering a speech



The topic

The use of nanotechnology in treatment of polluted water shows great promise in water scarce countries in Africa such as South Africa. The rapidly expanding human population has placed increasing pressure on the water resources that are accessible for human consumption, which is only a small fraction of the earth's total water. Nanotechnology can be used for both water filtration and as a disinfectant, through bioactive nanoparticles. However, the potential risk exists that nanoparticles can be released from water treatment plants into the natural environment. Scientists are studying the impact of these nanoparticles and their associated risks. Do you think nanotechnology should be used in cleaning polluted water?

1. Choose the format of your speech

WRITTEN

- Length: 400 – 450 words
- Typed (Arial, 12 point with 1.5 line spacing) or handwritten (legible writing)

OR

VOICE RECORDING AND SCRIPT

- Length: 4 minutes (not exceeding)
- MP3 format only
- Maximum of 5 individual voices delivering the speech. These individuals should all form part of the entering team.
- The voice recording should also be accompanied by a script, either typed (Arial, 12 point with 1.5 line spacing) or handwritten (legible writing).

OR

VIDEO CLIP AND SCRIPT

- Length: 4 minutes (not exceeding)
- MPEG or MP4 format
- Maximum of 5 actors in the video clip. These actors should all form part of the entering team.
- The video clip should also be accompanied by a script, either typed (Arial, 12 point with 1.5 line spacing) or handwritten (legible writing).

2. Adjudicators will score your speech on the following

2.1 CONTENT (40%)

- Originality
- Logic and accuracy
- Additional research and use of references

2.2 STRUCTURE (40%)

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

2.3 STYLE (20%)

- Sentence variety and structure
- Diction and imagery
- Mechanics (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

3. Rules

- Only entries accompanied by a completed cover page as well as a signed/stamped declaration will be accepted.
- Only one entry per school will be accepted.
- Speeches should be the debating team's own, original work.
- Should the team's speech be successful, this should also be the team to participate in the Debates Competition.
- Only email-submitted entries will be accepted. If you don't have access to email, please contact the project manager to make alternative arrangements.
- Only files in the valid formats will be accepted.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- The adjudicators' decisions are final.

4. Submissions



Send your speech and cover page to:
debates@saasta.ac.za



If you have difficulty sending large files via email, we suggest using the website www.wetransfer.co.za in order to assist you. *We Transfer* is a free internet service that helps you send files up to 2GB .

Helpful tip!

DEADLINE: Friday, 20 February 2016 at 24:00

Schools will be notified about the outcome of the speeches by 30 March 2016.

SAASTA and Wordwise Media look forward to working with you on this exciting and meaningful initiative aimed at developing the next generation of South Africa's leaders in the fields of science, engineering and technology.

Yours sincerely

The SAASTA Schools Debates Team

5. Queries

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SAASTA National Schools Debates: Entry 2016



PROVINCE

School name

School physical address

School postal address

Telephone number

Fax number

Email address

TEACHER (This will be the competition's contact for the duration of the year.)

Name

Cellphone number

Email address

Preferred method of communication

TEAM MEMBERS

	Name	Grade	Does this learner take any science-related subjects?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, _____, hereby confirm that I am the educator responsible for the team that will represent our school in the 2016 SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition, and that all the information provided is correct. I also agree to abide by the rules and conditions of the SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition.

Signed:

Date:

SCHOOL STAMP