



Brisbane Girls  
Debating Association

**BGDA Case Competition- Task Description**

Competitors will prepare a written debating-style case in support of their chosen side of the stipulated preliminary round topic. It is anticipated that the process of researching, brainstorming, drafting, and finalising submissions will take approximately 5-10 hours. Submissions are encouraged to make use of a combination of headings, full sentences, and dot-points where appropriate in order to effectively convey meaning within a limited word range.

The competition will culminate in a Grand Final in which the winner of each category will be awarded an exciting prize.

**Timeline**

<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>	<b>Topic is announced</b>  Training video and resources available  <a href="http://www.bgda.org.au/case-competition.html">http://www.bgda.org.au/case-competition.html</a>
<b>Saturday 16 July 2022</b>  <b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Submissions due</b>  Email attached submission to  casecompetition@bgda.org.au
<b>Monday 25 July 2022</b>  <b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Grand Finalists notified</b>  New topic released
<b>Sunday 28 August 2022</b>	<b>Grand Final submissions due</b>
<b>Monday 5 September 2022</b>	<b>Grand Final</b>

**Topics**

**Junior:** "That citizen science does more harm than good"

**Intermediate:** "That Earth Hour is a waste of time"

**Senior:** "That we should allow young people to access their superannuation to help them purchase their first home"

## Rules

- Students may compete as pairs or as an individual
- With the exception of students collaborating within their pair, competitors must not discuss their entries with any other competitors or plagiarise in any way
- The maximum word count is absolute any words over the maximum word count will not be considered (e.g. there is no 10% over leeway)
- Students may choose whether they prepare an Affirmative or Negative team case
- Entries must be emailed as a word document to [casecompetition@bgda.org.au](mailto:casecompetition@bgda.org.au) by 12:00pm Saturday 16 July 2022.
- Submission emails must include your and your partner's name, your grades, and school.
- In the preliminary round, each case will be assessed by three adjudicators who will each individually assign a score to the case, which will be averaged to determine the score of the case
- Following the preliminary round, the highest performing entries will be invited to progress to the Grand Final. In the event of a tie between entries, five judges will assess the relevant submissions and vote on which entries will progress to the Grand Final. The number of entries selected to progress to the Grand Final will be at the discretion of the BGDA Executive.

## Categories

Category	Eligibility	Maximum word count
Junior	Students eligible for the BGDA Competition in grades 7-8	800 words
Intermediate	Students eligible for the BGDA Competition in grades 9-10	1000 words
Senior	Students eligible for the BGDA Competition in grades 11-12	1200 words

## Criteria

The competition will be judged by qualified BGDA adjudicators who will score the case out of 100, with reference to the following criteria:

- Matter: the substance of your ideas (maximum of 50 points)
- Manner: the clarity of your expression, choice of words to convey specific meaning, formatting of the document (maximum of 20 points)
- Method: structure of your argument, prioritisation of ideas (maximum of 30 points)

Unlike in debating, the full score range will be utilised so that entries can be effectively distinguished. Students may request feedback on their case following the completion of the preliminary round.

Below is a description of the attributes a judge would expect a case within the following ranges to present:

<p><u>Needs improvement:</u> 0-40 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of the key terms within the topic</li> <li>Limited context provided</li> <li>Very limited evidence of strategy or prioritisation of ideas</li> <li>Limited explanation of key arguments</li> <li>Formatting is confusing and difficult to follow</li> <li>Limited use of structure</li> <li>Very limited use of stakeholders</li> <li>Very limited use of research</li> <li>Narrow range of arguments</li> <li>Rebuttal does not meaningfully advance assigned case</li> <li>Phrasing and word choice limits persuasiveness</li> <li>If provided, model, counter-model or criteria do not meaningfully advance case</li> </ul> <p><i>For Intermediate and Senior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No impacting of arguments</li> </ul>	<p><u>Good:</u> 41-60 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good understanding of key terms within the topic</li> <li>Good context provided</li> <li>Good understanding of the key issues within the debate</li> <li>Good range of arguments selected</li> <li>Good explanation of key arguments</li> <li>Clear point titles selected</li> <li>Good prioritisation of material</li> <li>Limited consideration of stakeholders</li> <li>Good use of structure</li> <li>Some evidence of a research</li> <li>Good identification and response to rebuttal issues</li> <li>Phrasing and word choice assists persuasiveness</li> <li>Good model, counter-model or criteria are provided (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p><i>For Intermediate and Senior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited impacting of arguments</li> </ul>
<p><u>Very good:</u> 61-79 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very good understanding of key terms within the topic</li> <li>Very good context provided</li> <li>Very good understanding of the key issues within the debate</li> <li>Very good range of arguments selected</li> <li>Very good explanation of key arguments</li> <li>Clear and appropriate point titles</li> <li>Very good prioritisation of material</li> <li>Some consideration of a variety of stakeholders</li> <li>Very good use of structure</li> <li>Some impacting and 'weighing-up' of arguments</li> <li>Clear evidence of research</li> <li>Very good identification and response to rebuttal issues</li> <li>Phrasing and word choice enhances persuasiveness</li> <li>Very good model, counter-model or criteria are provided (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p><i>For Intermediate and Senior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some impacting and 'weighing-up' of arguments</li> </ul>	<p><u>Excellent:</u> 80-100 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sophisticated understanding of key terms within the topic</li> <li>Highly strategic context provided</li> <li>Nuanced understanding of the key issues within the debate</li> <li>Highly effective range of arguments selected</li> <li>Excellent explanation of key arguments</li> <li>Clear and appropriate point titles</li> <li>Excellent prioritisation of material</li> <li>Strong consideration of a variety of stakeholders</li> <li>Discerning use of structure</li> <li>Sophisticated argumentation resulting from research</li> <li>Concise and clear written expression</li> <li>Phrasing and word choice significantly enhances persuasiveness</li> <li>Excellent model, counter-model or criteria are provided (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p><i>For Intermediate and Senior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent impacting and 'weighing-up' of arguments</li> <li>Excellent use of pre-emptive and integrated rebuttal throughout case</li> </ul>

## Task Format

### Context

- Provide the factual context within which the debate takes place
- Frame this strategically to support your team's side of the debate
- Define key terms within their context in the debate

### Set-up

- If necessary, provide a clear model/counter-model that outlines **clearly and succinctly** how the policy will be implemented (who, what, when, how); or
- If necessary, provide criteria to frame your stance on the topic (in the topic "that books are better than movies", you might have criteria for what "better than" means such as provides superior outcomes educationally, for enjoyment etc.)

### Summary

- Briefly summarise what you believe your team would need to prove in order to win this debate
- **1-2 sentences maximum**

### Substantive arguments

- Outline **four** substantive arguments (points)
- Follow a clear structure, providing a label for the point, explaining the reasoning behind the point, providing supporting evidence/examples (for some students, following the PEEL structure may be helpful)
- Avoid being assertive and ensure that the reasoning (why and how) underpinning your point is evident
- Provide a hyperlink to any electronic evidence you use
- Impact your arguments (explain why they are important)
- Order your points as you would in a debate, taking into consideration the impact of each point and its relative importance in the context of the whole "debate" (e.g. your 2.2 should be the least important/impactful point in your case)
- You may wish to acknowledge where your material would likely clash with the other team's case and how you would respond/engage in necessary trade-offs

### Pre-empting rebuttal

- Brainstorm as if you were preparing the opposite side of this debate and briefly list 2-4 **strong** arguments that the opposition may make
- Provide a brief response to the main ideas underpinning these arguments

### Concluding remarks

- Summarise the important material you have conveyed
- Any closing remarks

## Task Samples

You can find sample submissions from previous years on the [BGDA's Case Competition website](#). Please note, these submissions are from previous Case Competition winners and therefore represent the highest quality, rather than average standard.

- **Junior** – [Junior Sample 2021](#)
- **Intermediate** – [Intermediate Sample 2021](#)
- **Senior** – [Senior Sample 2021](#)