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GOLD COAST  
**DEBATING**

# Introduction to Debating

GCD SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

DEBATING

# What is Debating?

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Gold Coast Debating does what's called "3 vs 3" style debating.

Two teams are each allocated a side of a given topic.

- **Affirmative team:** must argue the topic is *true*.
- **Negative team:** must argue the topic is *false*.

A team is usually made up of 4 or 5 students, but only 3 students will speak in each debate, hence "3 vs 3".

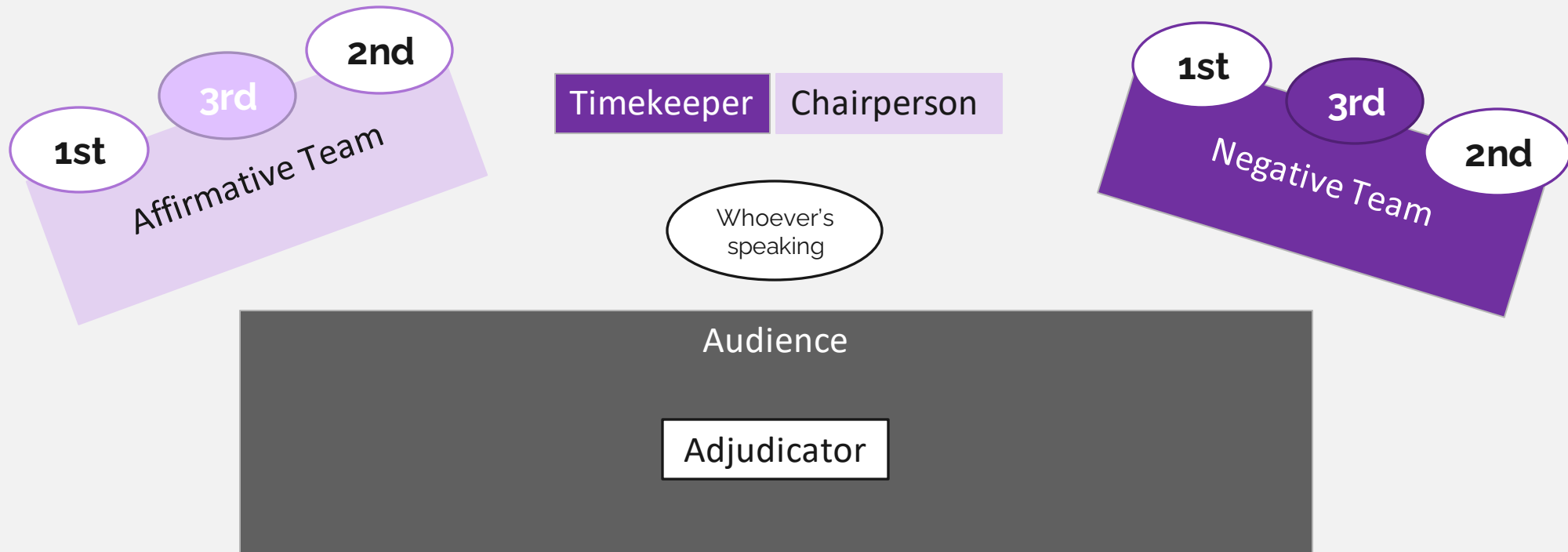
For example:

**Junior B Division Round 1 Topic:**  
*Sweet is better than savoury.*

**Affirmative:**  
Somerset  
College Team 1  
(SOM 1)

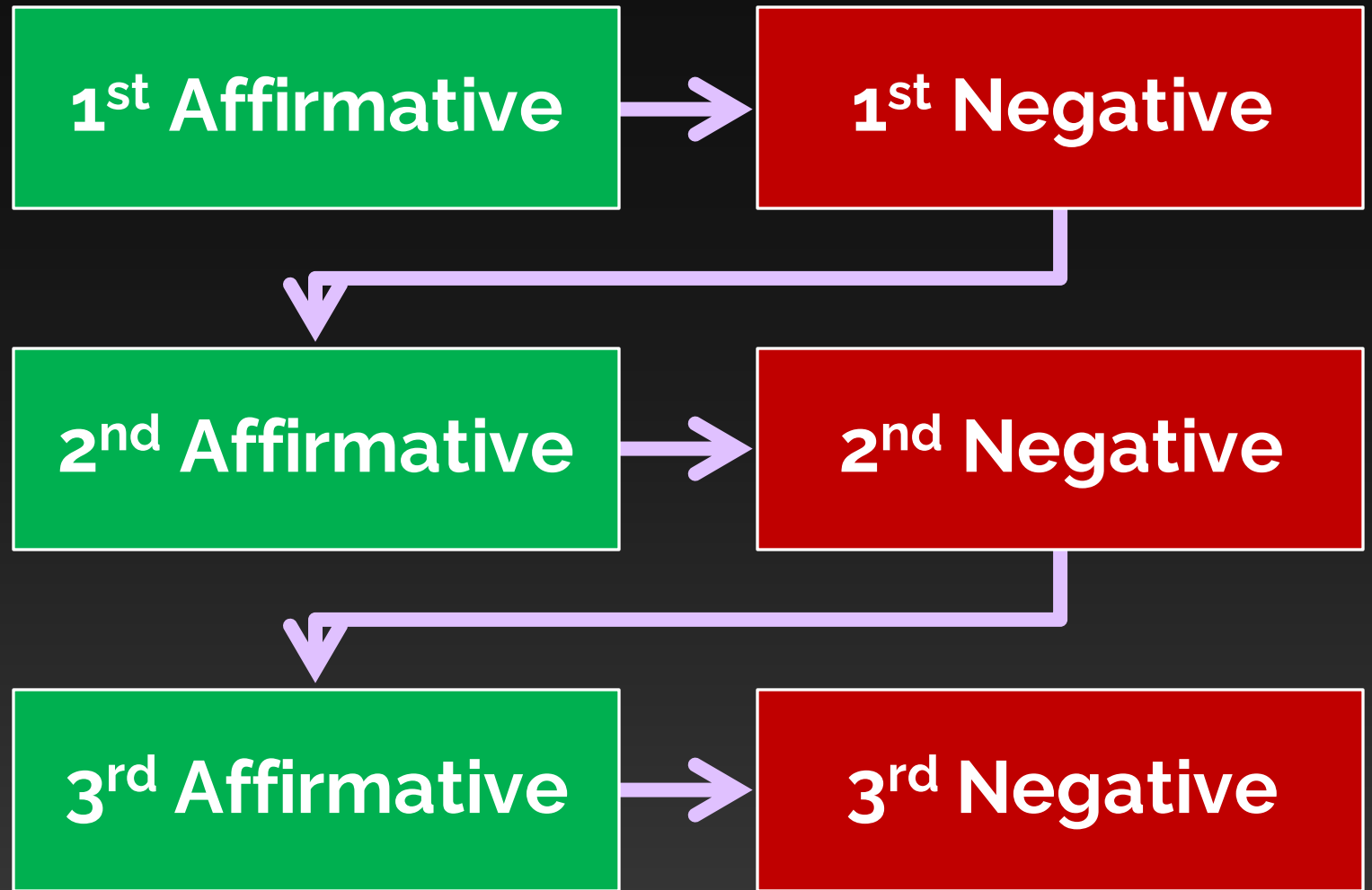
**Negative:**  
Robina State  
High School  
Team 2  
(ROB 2)

# Room Layout



**Note:** the placement of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> speakers doesn't actually matter, so long as the 3<sup>rd</sup> speaker is seated in the middle. This is so the other speakers can help them with rebuttal easily.

# Speaking Order



# Examples of topics

There are a few different types of topics that you might come across:

**1. Statements:**

*Homework is a waste of time*

*Privacy is a privilege not a right*

**2. Comparisons:**

*The Winter Olympics are more enjoyable than the Summer Olympics*

*Cats make better pets than dogs*

**3. 'Should' debates:**

*Public transport should be free*

*We should spend less time online*

**Note:** You **don't get to choose your side** – you are allocated affirmative or negative and you must argue that perspective, even if you don't agree! 😊 (Kidding, no sad face – it's fun!)

# Your Team's Whole Case

As a team of three speakers, you will work together to argue one side of the topic. In the example below, the affirmative team is arguing that 'summer is better than winter'. They have worked together and come up with four supporting arguments in total (supporting arguments are your reasons why your side of the argument is correct), so the first and second speaker will present two of these arguments each. Each team can present 4-6 supporting arguments.

Summer is better than winter (affirmative)

1st Speaker's Points

2nd Speaker's Points

Physical  
health

Mental health

Tourism

Productivity –  
more daylight

# Affirmative Team: Speaking Roles

Each speaker has certain 'jobs' that they need to complete throughout their speech. If you don't do your jobs, you will be marked down by the adjudicator!

1

1st Affirmative

- Define the topic
- Introduce team's whole case
- Present 2-3 arguments
- Brief summary of own arguments to finish

2

2nd Affirmative

- Rebut the opposition's arguments
- Reminder of 1<sup>st</sup> speaker's arguments
- Present 2-3 arguments
- Brief summary of own arguments to finish

3

3rd Affirmative

- Rebut the opposition's arguments extensively
- Re-cap whole team's arguments (*NO NEW ARGUMENTS of their own*)

# Negative Team: Speaking Roles

Each speaker has certain 'jobs' that they need to complete throughout their speech. If you don't do your jobs, you will be marked down by the adjudicator!

## 1 1<sup>st</sup> Negative

- Accept OR reject & redefine topic
- Rebut the opposition's arguments
- Introduce team's whole case
- Present 2-3 arguments
- Brief summary of own arguments to finish

## 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Negative

- Rebut the opposition's arguments
- Reminder of 1<sup>st</sup> speaker's arguments
- Present 2-3 arguments
- Brief summary of own arguments to finish

## 3 3<sup>rd</sup> Negative

- Rebut the opposition's arguments extensively
- Re-cap whole team's arguments (*NO NEW ARGUMENTS of their own*)