

Middle School Ethics Bowl Rules

1. For the sake of fairness, moderators are strict when enforcing the time limits. A one minute notice is given before time is up and teams should also be allowed to finish their sentences once time is over.
2. **Teams are allowed to have one 3x5" notecard (front only) per person, prepared in advance and brought to the round.** Teams are also allowed to take notes during the round. Electronic devices are only allowed for keeping track of time.
3. Teams are allowed to present in any way that they want. Whether teams have only one speaker or let all members speak should not influence the judges' evaluation.
4. Judges evaluate teams based on their performance during the rounds. Teams do *not* have to defend a specific position, and they also do *not* have to oppose each other. The goal of the ethics bowl is to articulate the best ethical analysis of the case in response to the given question. Breadth and depth of the analysis are the main criteria.
5. To emphasize the collaborative aspect of the ethics bowl, students are allowed to stay seated during the debates if they prefer. However, teams should agree in advance whether both stand or sit while speaking.
6. When one team speaks, the other team and audience members must remain silent, although writing and passing notes is permitted. The moderators should address any unacceptable behavior including, but not limited to:
 - Coaches, parents, or audience members communicating with (verbally or non-verbally), or demonstrably reacting to team members during a match.
 - Judges showing hostility or asking inappropriate questions to team members. Inappropriate questions include, but are not limited to any that highlight a participant's race, religion, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, appearance, etc. Judges should direct their constructive questions to teams based on the discussion, not to individuals.
 - Anyone in the room who intentionally makes distracting noises while one of the teams, judges, or moderator has the floor.
 - Foul, insulting, or excessively graphic language or confrontational behavior by anyone in the room.
7. No dress code is in effect.