2027 Middle School Ethics Bowl Scoring Rubric

Procedure

The Middle School Ethics Bowl round structure has been reformatted to better align with the goals of the Ethics Bowl. These changes will, we hope, encourage both teams to more deeply engage with ethical dilemmas at the heart of each case, and with each other.

- *Only one case will be discussed during each round.*
    - This year, each case has between 2-3 Match Questions. Only one predetermined match question will be used during each round.
    - Both teams will present on the same case and question.
- Following each team's presentation, they will engage in an open dialogue with one another.
- Judges will then pose questions to both teams.
- During the "Final Question" section of the round, each team member will be asked to reflect on and share what they learned from the discussion.

Round Structure: (50 minutes)

1. Team Conferral Time (2 minutes)
2. Team A Presents (3 minutes)
3. Team B Presents (3 minutes)
4. Team Conferral Time (2 minutes)
5. Open Dialogue (10 minutes with Team A starting)
6. Judges' Conferral Time (5 minutes)
7. Judges' Questions to Team A & Team B (10 minutes)
8. Team Conferral Time (1 minute)
9. Final Question for Team A & Team B (1 minute each with Team B starting)
10. Scoring Time (5 minutes)

> Winner Announcement (1 minute)

Total maximum score: 40 points

Scoring

All presentation, open dialogue, and judges' questions sections of the round will be scored using the same ten-point scale:

- 9-10 = Excellent
- 7-8 = Very Good
- 5-6 = Good
- 3-4 = Fair
- 1-2 = Needs improvement

The Final Question and Respectful Dialogue will be scored on a 1-5 scale:

- 5 = Excellent
- 4 = Very Good
- 3 = Good
- 2 = Fair
- 1 = Needs improvement

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Presentation (10 points)

- Did the team clearly and systematically identify and thoroughly discuss the case's central ethical dimensions?
- Did the team consider different viewpoints, including those most likely to be cited by those who disagree with the team's position?

Open Dialogue (10 points)

- Did the team directly and critically answer questions posed by the other team, and propose original ideas?
- Did the team build on the ideas of others, or add material not in the original presentation, to meaningfully explore ethical perspectives and positions relevant to the case question?
- Did the team focus on ethical concepts during the dialogue?
- Did the team "share the air" and not dominate the conversation?
- Did the team engage in "back and forth" dialogue, as opposed to merely asking questions of the other team or answering questions?

Judges' Questions (10 points)

- Were the team's responses thoughtfully composed and well developed?
- Did the team directly address the judges' questions?
- Did the responses indicate an awareness of the core ethical issues within each question?
- Did the team "share the air" and not dominate the conversation?

Final Question (5 points)

- What was the other team's strongest point and how did it help develop your team's thinking about this case?

Respectful Dialogue (5 points)

- Did the team uphold the spirit of the ethics bowl by demonstrating open-mindedness, taking turns both within and between teams, including others in conversation, listening actively, and maintaining civility, especially when disagreements arose?

Please score using only whole numbers.

I. PRESENTATION

Team A _____ / 10 Team B ____ / 10

II. OPEN DIALOGUE

Team A _____ / 10 Team B _____ / 10

III. JUDGES QUESTIONS

Team A _____ / 10 Team B _____ / 10

IV. FINAL QUESTION

Team A_____ / 5 Team B_____ / 5

V. RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

Team A _____ / 5 Team B _____ / 5

Final Score: Team A _____ / 40 Team B _____ / 40