

Ethics Bowl for the Classroom: Moderator's Script

Based on the Moderator Script used by the [National High School Ethics Bowl](#)

Note to organizer: *This script is based on the moderator's script used by the National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB), but you are encouraged to customize it as you see fit. For example, you might cap team size at 10 rather than 5 students, or during the opening section give teams 5 minutes to confer and 2 minutes to present rather than the other way around, or allow teams to refer to notes during the round. Whatever your changes, if any, please communicate them early and annotate this moderator's script accordingly before the round begins.*

Note to moderator: *At the beginning of each round you should have six copies of each case and question (one for each of the three judges, one for yourself, and one for each team), as well as three scoring rubrics and three score sheets (one for each judge). You should already have a clock, a coin, a timer, pens, and scrap paper for the teams. Teams may use their own timer but it cannot be a cell phone, tablet, or anything else that stores data or can connect to the internet and they can only time their own sections – not the other team's (see the rules and procedures [here](#) for more details, and confirm any potential changes with the organizer).*

Distribute score sheets and rubrics to judges and ask them to write their names and match number in the appropriate spots. The teams should be seated at the tables, and if you're abiding by the rules of the National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB), have between 2 and 5 members on each, with no substitutions at this point. Teams cannot bring notes to the table (the moderator will distribute scrap paper) or confer with their coach once the match begins. Teachers, coaches, and non-participating team members should sit with spectators.

When the teams, judges, and spectators are settled, announce the beginning of the round as follows:

Welcome to our ethics bowl. This match is between (team name) and (team name). I am _____ and will be moderating this session, and would like to thank our judges for volunteering their time today and ask them to please introduce themselves.

Judges introduce themselves.

Now I'd like to welcome the student participants. Students, will you please introduce yourselves starting here?

Point to one end and students from both teams will introduce themselves.

Thank you. Now we will begin the match. Teams, as you know, from this point on there are no substitutions, consulting with anyone other than your teammates at the table, or reviewing outside materials. Coaches and spectators, please remember that communicating with either team, verbally or non-verbally, is impermissible. Please remain quiet throughout the competition so that the students can concentrate. I'll now flip a coin to determine presenting order.

Turn to team to your left: Heads or tails?

Team calls, and you flip the coin.

The coin is (heads/tails). (Team that won the toss), you have the option of presenting first or to have the other team present first. What is your choice?

The team will make its choice – either to present or to allow the other team to present the first case. Turn to the team that will present first.

OK, _____ (team that will be presenting first), you will present first and are known as Team A. Judges, please note on your score sheet that _____ is Team A and _____ is Team B.

At this point distribute a copy of the case/question to the judges and face down to the teams.

We are ready to begin. The case is case #__, (read title of the case).

At this point you may read the case aloud so its details are fresh in everyone's mind.

The question is_____.

Team A, you now have up to two minutes to confer before beginning your presentation. Both teams may make notes, but Team A is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team A two minutes to confer.

Team A now has five minutes to make its presentation. Any member of the team may speak, one at a time.

Team A, I will give you reminders when there are three minutes and one minute remaining.

Team A presents for five minutes. If someone is speaking when time is up, allow that person to finish his or her sentence.

Judges, please mark your scores for Team A's presentation. Team B, you now have one minute to confer. Both teams may make notes, but Team B is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team B one minute to confer.

Team B, you now have up to three minutes to comment on Team A's presentation. Any member of your team may speak, one at a time. Team B, I will indicate when you have one minute remaining.

Give Team B up to three minutes for its commentary.

Judges, please write down your scores for Team B's commentary. Team A, you now have one minute to confer. Team A is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team A one minute to confer.

Team A has three minutes to respond to Team B's commentary. Any member of your team may speak, one at a time. Team A, I will indicate when you have one minute remaining.

Give Team A three minutes for its response.

Thank you. Judges, please write down your score for Team A's response. Now the judges will have an opportunity to ask Team A questions. Judges, would you like 30 seconds to confer or are you ready to ask questions now?

If they need to confer, give them 30 seconds or so.

OK judges, this question and answer session may be up to 10 minutes long. Each of you may ask one question and one follow-up question. I will let you know when there are two minutes remaining. You may begin.

Judges will ask questions, and Team A will answer for up to 10 minutes. You may need to remind the judges to keep their questions as brief as possible.

Thank you. Judges, please score Team A's responses to your questions. I will collect the used paper while you finish your scoring and comments.

As you enter the second half of the round, the Teams' roles reverse so that Team B will now go first.

OK. Judges ready?

Pass out the case and question to each judge and team.

I will now read the question for Team B. The case is case #__, (read title of the case).

At this point you may read the case aloud so its details are fresh in everyone's mind.

The question is_____.

Team B, you now have up to two minutes to confer with each other before beginning your presentation. Both teams may make notes, but Team B is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team B two minutes to confer.

Team B now has five minutes to make its presentation. Any member of the team may speak, one at a time.

Team B, I will give you reminders when there are three minutes and one minute remaining.

Give Team B five minutes for its presentation. If someone is speaking when time is up, allow that person to finish his or her sentence.

Judges, please mark your scores for Team B's presentation. Team A, you now have one minute to confer. Either team may make notes, but Team A is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team A one minute to confer.

Team A, you now have up to three minutes to comment on Team B's presentation. Any member of your team may speak, one at a time. Team A, I will indicate when you have one minute remaining.

Give Team A up to three minutes for its commentary.

Judges, please write down your scores for Team A's commentary. Team B, you now have one minute to confer. Team B is the only team allowed to speak during this time.

Give Team B one minute to confer.

Team B has three minutes to respond to Team A's commentary. Any member of your team may speak, one at a time. Team B, I will indicate when you have one minute remaining.

Give Team B three minutes for its response, giving them the reminder.

Thank you. Judges, please write down your score for Team B's response. Now the judges will have an opportunity to ask Team B questions. Judges, would you like 30 seconds to confer or are you ready to ask questions now?

If they need to confer, give them 30 seconds or so.

OK judges, this question and answer session may be up to 10 minutes long. Each of you may ask one question and one follow-up question. I will let you know when there are two minutes remaining. You may begin.

Judges will ask questions, and Team B will answer for up to 10 minutes. You may need to remind the judges to keep their questions as brief as possible.

Thank you. Judges, please score Team B's responses to your questions and finish up your score sheets. Thank you to both teams for a great round. Teams, you can relax for a few minutes while we collect the cases and scrap paper.

Volunteer can help collect scrap paper and cases from both teams – the tables should be totally clear of material.

Thank you, teams. When the judges are done, I will double check the totals and announce the winner. Remember that the winner will be the team that has the highest number of judges' votes out of three.

Check the math to make sure that the judges added up their scores correctly. Then determine which team got the highest number of judge votes. That is, the winning team is the team with the higher number of points on the most judges' score sheets, which is different from the team with the most points overall.

Teams, let's thank the Judges. Now to the results: _____ has won this round. Congratulations to both teams for a great round. Thank you.



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The [National High School Ethics Bowl](#) (NHSEB) is part of the larger Ethics Bowl initiative which includes the [Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl](#) (IEB) and the [Two Year College Ethics Bowl](#), which are affiliated with the [Association for Practical and Professional Ethics](#).