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Ambassador Debate Guide

In debate Ambassadors must be prepared to make the most of their time whenever they are recognized. To do this they must understand what techniques they are allowed to use when speaking.

Prior to Debate:

Check the docket and read the proposals that will be in your summit as soon as possible, preparing speeches for each topic.

Being Recognized:

Whenever an Ambassador is given the floor to speak, they must first address the summit or assembly by stating their name, the country they represent, and then addressing the President. "John Doe, representing Brazil, Madam (or Sir) President"

Non-Debatable Technical Questions:

When recognized to ask a technical question, an Ambassador must stand, address the summit or assembly, ask their question in a clear and loud voice, and remain standing to receive their answer. Ambassadors may not respond in any manner to the answer. Questions deemed debatable will be declared out of order by the President and the floor will immediately move to the next question.

What is a technical question?

A technical question is a question of fact. Technical questions can be answered "yes," "no," or with evidence such as statistics and scientific research. The best technical questions are tailored to the issue, but some apply to most proposals.

These include:

"How much will this cost?"

"Where will you get funding?"

"Who will enforce this policy?"

"What is the penalty for not following this policy?"

What makes a question debatable?

Questions that assume facts not already demonstrated, that call for an opinion or assumption, or that otherwise seek to discuss any topic that is not bound by fact are debatable. Questions that use the word "why" are almost always debatable.

Vague examples include:

"Why will this solution work?"

"Wouldn't another solution offer the same benefits?"

"Since this is good, isn't that bad?"



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Pro/Con Debate:

During Pro/Con debate Ambassadors are recognized for one minute at a time, and have several options for what they can do with their time. The President will alternate speakers who are in opposition and who are in favor, so Ambassadors should be prepared to be recognized at all times, though most speeches are given by volunteers. Once Ambassadors are recognized and have addressed the President they may do one or two of the following: **speak**, ask the authors to yield to a **question (or series of questions)**, or **yield their remaining time** to another speaker.

Speaking:

It is assumed that an Ambassador will speak when recognized. If an Ambassador wishes only to speak, they may do so after they have addressed the President.

Asking Questions:

Ambassadors may use the time they are allotted to ask the author(s) questions, which may be debatable and may be as few as one or as many as time allows.

How do I ask questions during debate?

In order to ask the author a question (or series of questions) during pro/con debate after being recognized by the President, an Ambassador must address the President and ask, **"Will the author(s) yield to a question (or series of questions)?"** The President then asks the author if they will yield. If the authors' answer is yes, the Ambassador is then entitled to one or more questions. The authors may say no.

May I interrupt the Author if they have answered my question?

Decorum and respect are always required, but if an Author has answered the question, the Ambassador who asked the question may thank the Authors to signify their satisfaction to with the answer and then move on to the next question.

May I speak after I ask questions?

Yes. If an Ambassador wishes to speak after they ask the Author questions they must state their intent when requesting that the Authors yield. This is done by saying **"John Doe, representing Brazil, Madam (or Sir) President. Will the author yield to a question (or series of questions)? I reserve my right to speak afterward."**

Yielding:

When an Ambassador is given time by the President they are not required to use all of it themselves, but may yield to one other person. Yielding is the transfer of time from one Ambassador to another.

When can I yield?

Ambassadors may yield to another Ambassador after having spoken or asked a question (or series of questions).



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How do I yield after speaking?

Ambassadors must reserve their right to yield to another Ambassador after they address the President. They must also indicate to which Ambassador they wish to yield. If an Ambassador wishes to speak and then yield they must address the President by saying **“John Doe, representing Brazil, Madam (or Sir) President. I reserve my right to yield any remaining time to the Ambassador from Italy.”**

Once they have finished speaking they must then say **“I yield any remaining time to the Ambassador from Italy.”**

How do I yield after a question (or series of questions)?

Ambassadors must reserve their right to yield to another Ambassador after they address the President and request that the Authors yield. They must also indicate which Ambassador they wish to yield to. If an Ambassador wishes to speak and then yield they must address the President by saying **“John Doe, representing Brazil, Madam (or Sir) President. Will the author yield to a series of questions? I reserve my right to yield any remaining time to the Ambassador from Italy.”**

Once they have finished with their questions they must then say **“I yield any remaining time to the Ambassador from Italy.”**

Motions & Amendments

Though an important part of the legislative process no Motions or Amendments will be considered in order at KUNA due to time constraints.