Middle School Ethics Bowl Scoring Rubric - 2023

Procedure

This year’s ethics bowl round structure will be formatted differently to better align with the program’s goals and to be developmentally and age appropriate. Only one case will be discussed during each round. Both teams will present on the same case and question. Then they will engage in an open dialogue with one another. Teams will know the cases and case questions in advance, and will also be expected to answer judges questions near the end of the round. During the “final question” portion of the round, which is new, each team will be asked to reflect on and share what they learned from discussing the case with one another.

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 will be scored using the same ten point scale:

● 9-10 = Excellent
● 7-8 = Very Good
● 5-6 = Good
● 5-8 = Fair
● 1-4 = 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
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, so as to meaningfully explore different ethical perspectives and positions relevant to the case question?
- Did the team focus on ethical concepts during the dialogue?
- A Team should lose points if they do any of the following:
  - dominate the dialogue by not sharing the air (- 2 pts)
  - only ask questions of the other team (- 1 pt)
  - never contribute new ideas, but instead only repeat points from presentation (- 2 pts)

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?

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, listening actively, and maintaining civility especially when disagreements arose?

MSEB ROUND SCORE SHEET
please score using only whole numbers

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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