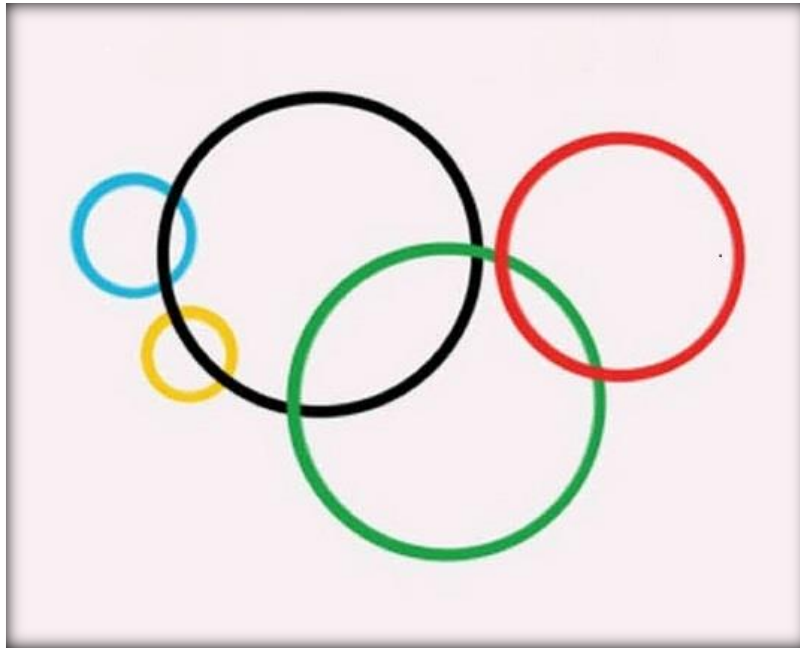


ONLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL ETHICS OLYMPIAD COACHES KIT



The following information is for coaches who have entered a team or teams in the 2026 Middle School Online Ethics Olympiad. In conducting the Ethics Olympiad, we hope to raise the profile of Philosophy and Ethics in Middle schools. This is an important initiative and we thank you for agreeing to be part of it.

- Schools are entering one or two teams of four/five students.
- The Ethics Olympiad is based on a US competition called an Ethics Bowl.
- On the day, all students will be involved in a series of four Ethics Olympiad heats.
- There are eight ethical cases that all participants have access to before the event.
- At the end of each case you will find some questions which your team (s) might be asked to address on the day.
- Students will work together as a team to come up with the best response to questions.
- The first round on the day will be a practice round (unscored).
- If you are new to the Ethics Olympiad consider signing into a training day with or without your students. (See www.ethicsolympiad for details)
- The scoring criteria rewards, clear, concise, respectful discourse around interesting ethical cases. Please familiarise your students with the cases.

- Participating students must be in Years 7-9 (or 11-14 years old).
- The results will be collated at the end of the event and we will contact all coaches within 24 hours indicating which teams were awarded gold medals, Silver medals and Bronze medals. Each medal winning student receives a medal. These medals will be posted to the organizing teachers a few days after the event.
- When we post the results for all teams' we will also send a certificate that can be presented to students at a school assembly. We ask that you might acknowledge your student's achievement in being selected to represent your school in your school's newsletter.

Technical needs

We will be sending a zoom link to each school. There is no need to register on Zoom. We will be sending you a unique Zoom link roughly one month before the event and a few weeks before the event. Each device will need a camera and a microphone and be connected to a reliable internet connection. Coaches will need a separate device at some stage during the day but can use the same device during the morning sessions.

- Please ensure your students can be heard by all participants. Sometimes schools find a separate microphone useful.

Prior to the event

Coaches will need to make sure their students are familiar with the cases and have had the chance to prepare themselves for the event. As is the case with any elite sporting event you will need to set aside practice sessions for students. Training clinics are available in the lead up to the event.



On the day

- Make sure you and your students have a copy of the eight cases.
- Students are not allowed to have pre-prepared notes on the day.
- Please make sure each team is located in a quiet spot where they can hear and be heard.
- Coaches should not speak to students during the heats.
- On the desk students should have some scrap paper on which to make notes and copies of the cases only.

Program for the Day

- Starts 9 am – 9.15 am – Preparation
- 9.15-10.25 am – Heat One (Practice Heat)
- 10.25-10.30 am Short Break
- 10.30 am -11.45 am – Heat Two
- 11.45 Morning tea
- 12-1.15 – Heat Three
- 1.15 pm – 1.40 pm Lunch
- 1.40 pm-1.45 pm Announcements
- 1.45-3 pm- Heat Four
- 3 pm – Thankyous & Finish

Heat Format, Rules & scoring

The heats will be run in a Zoom breakout room. Each room will have two teams and a moderator/judge. After brief introductions, the moderator will toss a coin to determine which is team A and which is team B. The case will then be announced, and the question will be read out. Students will then be given a two-minute team meeting. Students have 2 minutes to discuss and plan their response to the question. Team A then have 5 minutes to present their case. (Only one person can speak at a time) A one-minute conference will then be afforded for Team B to offer their critique. Following that Team B has 3 minutes to present their critique. Again a 30 second warning will be provided by the moderator. Team A will then have a one minute meeting to prepare their response to the critique. Another three-

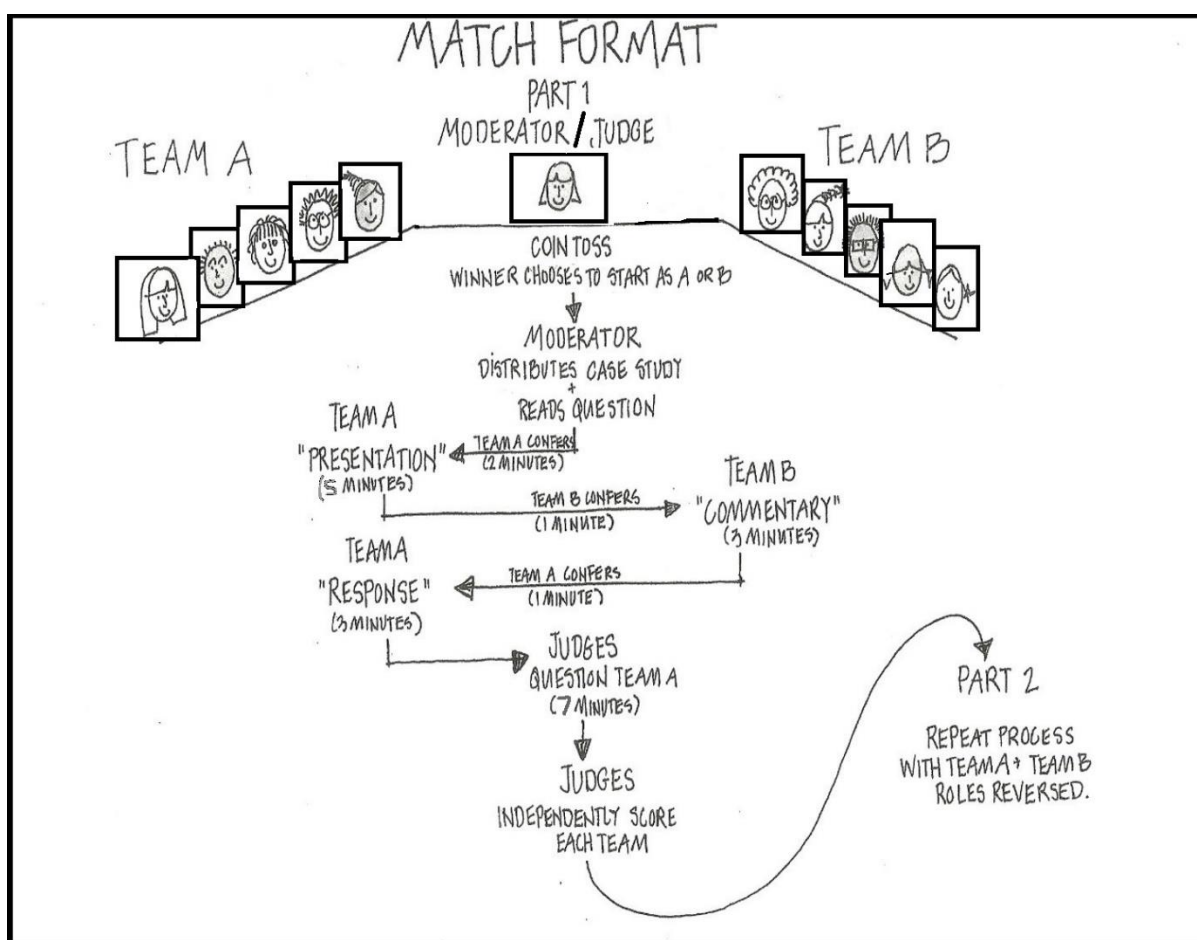


minute period is provided for Team A to respond.

Following this the judge (s) will have 7 minutes Q&A with Team A. (Students can ask to have a 30 second private conference before responding to the judges questions)

Once the judges have finished their Q&A the moderator will read out the next case and Team A swaps roles with team B and the same process is repeated as above.

At the end of the Heat please make sure your team thanks the moderator and the judges.



Participants

Teams will be made up of five students. Students from Years 7-9 (11-14 years old) only are allowed to participate in the Middle School Ethics Olympiad. It is important to notify the organizers if you have students from any other year group.

Topics for the 2026 Middle School Ethics Olympiad;

Case 1 – Liar, Liar (Video)

Case 2 – Dear Grandma

Case 3 – The Invasive Species Plan

Case 4 – Begun, the Star Wars have

Case 5 – The Six-Million Dollar Banana

Case 6 – Cinema Pirate-Diso /The Simpsons (Video)

Case 7 – Tourism: Finance or Nature

Case 8 – To Persevere or to Pass

You can find these online at:

<http://ethicsolympiad.org/2026MiddleSchoolEthicsOlympiad/2026MiddleSchoolEthicsOlympiadNovCases.pdf>

Prizes

Please note that medals will not be awarded during the day but announced within 24 hours to the organising teacher. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be posted to the winning schools soon after the event and can then be awarded at a school assembly. We will also provide a certificate for teachers to award students at a school assembly.



2026 Ethics Olympiad Scoring Criteria

The Ethics Olympiad scoring criteria should be used in conjunction with the score sheet. Please remember, teams are strongly encouraged to think of themselves as being on the same side rather than as opponents. That is, both teams are working together to solve a difficult problem—while impressing the judges with thoughtful analysis and support. Listening to the other team with an aim to affirm, supplement, or build on their argument is a prudent approach.

Part 1: PRESENTING Team's initial presentation (15 Points Total)

A) Did the presentation **clearly and systematically** address the moderator's question? (5 points)

- 5 = Extremely clear presentation that systematically addressed the key dimensions of the question.
- 4 = Reasonably clear presentation that systematically addressed most key dimensions of the question.
- 3 = Hard to follow the argument. Significant dimensions of the question missed (passable).
- 2 = Serious logical problems or underdeveloped argument (poor).
- 1 = Incoherent presentation.

B) Did the team **clearly identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions** of the case? (5 points)

- 5 = Clearly and precisely identified central moral dimensions, and discussed these dimensions thoroughly.
- 4 = Mostly identified central moral dimensions and discussed major issues.
- 3 = Adequately identified and discussed some central moral dimensions (passable).
- 2 = Misidentified some moral dimensions of the case and inadequately discussed (poor).
- 1 = Misidentified the central moral dimensions.

C) Did the team's presentation **indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including especially those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position**? (5 points)

- 5 = Insightful analysis and discussion of the most significant viewpoints, including full and careful attention to opposing points of view.
- 4 = Solid analysis and discussion of some different viewpoints.
- 3 = Underdeveloped discussion of different viewpoints (passable).
- 2 = Minimal consideration of different viewpoints (poor).
- 1 = Minimal awareness of different viewpoints.

Part 2: RESPONDING Team's Commentary on Opposing Team's Initial Presentation (10 Points)

To what extent has the team effectively and directly responded to and engaged the presenting team's argument?

- 10 = Especially insightful, complete, and composed commentary.
- 9 = Key points excellently addressed.
- 8-7 = Solid response to presenting team's points.
- 6-5 = Some points made, but few insights or constructive ideas (passable).
- 4-3 = Weak or irrelevant response or merely asking a series of questions (poor).
- 2-1 = Failure to respond to presenting team or resorting to personal attacks.

Part 3: PRESENTING Team's Response to Opposing Team's commentary (15 Points)

How did the team respond to the opposing team's commentary?

- 15 = Especially insightful, complete, and composed response.
- 12-14 = Key points are excellently addressed.
- 9-11 = Solid response to commenting team.
- 6-8 = Some relevant points are made (passable).
- 3-5 = Weak or irrelevant response (poor).
- 1-2 = Failure to respond to commentary

Part 4: PRESENTING Team's Response to Judges' Questions (15 Points)

How did the team respond to the judges' questions?

- 15 = Especially insightful, complete, and composed response.
- 14 = The most pressing points are identified and discussed.
- 13-12 = Several of the most important points are identified and discussed.
- 11-10 = Some relevant points are made (passable).
- 9-4 = Weak or irrelevant response (poor).
- 3-1 = Failure to respond to commentary and judges

Overall: Points for engaging in Respectful Dialogue, as opposed to Combative Debate (5 Points)

Did the team demonstrate their awareness that an ethics bowl is about participating in a collaborative discussion aimed at earnestly thinking through difficult ethical issues?

- 5 = Respectfully engaged all parties in exceptionally productive and collaborative discussion.
- 4 = Respectfully engaged other team's arguments and points.
- 3 = Respectful of other team's argument but only marginal engagement and pursuit.
- 2 = Unengaged with other team's arguments.
- 1 = Combative or dismissive of other team's arguments.

HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS OLYMPIAD SCORE SHEET

TEAM A _____

Team A Presentation (First case)

- A. Was Team A's presentation clear and systematic? (1-5) _____
 B. Did the team's presentation identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case? (1-5) _____
 C. Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position? (1-5) _____

1. Team A presentation score
(Total A-C above)

of 15

3. Team A response to commentary

of 15

4. Team A response to Judges' questions

of 15

-----end of case 1-----

TEAM B _____

2. Team B commentary

of 10

-----end of case 1-----

Team B Presentation (Second case)

- A. Was Team B's presentation clear and systematic? (1-5) _____
 B. Did the team's presentation identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case? (1-5) _____
 C. Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with the team's position? (1-5) _____

1. Team B presentation score
(Total A-C above)

of 15

3. Team B response to commentary

of 15

4. Team B response to Judges' questions

of 15

-----end of case 2-----

6. Team A commentary

of 10

-----end of case 2-----

9. Team A respectful dialogue

of 5

10. TOTAL

of 60

Comments for Team A:

9. Team B respectful dialogue

of 5

10. TOTAL

of 60

Comments for Team B:



Please email the final scores to admin@ethicsolympiad.org

Print Judges Name _____