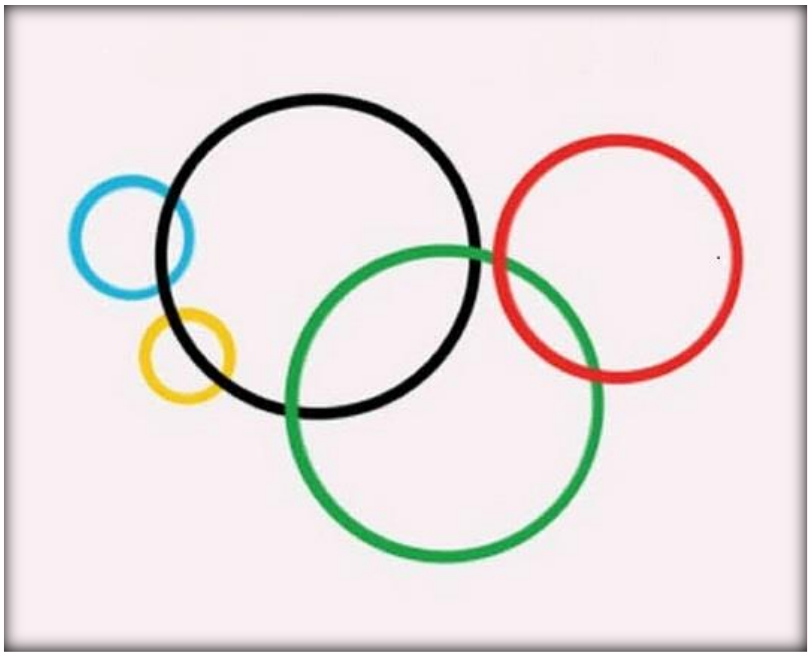
ONLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL
ETHICS OLYMPIAD STUDENTS KIT



2026

The following information is for students who are part of a team at the 2026 Middle School Ethics Olympiad online. In conducting the Ethics Olympiad, we hope to raise the profile and promote the study of Ethics in Middle schools. Congratulations on being selected to represent your school.

- 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 might be asked to address on the day.
- You will work together as a team to come up with the best response to the question.
- The first round on the day will be a practice round (un-scored).

- The scoring criteria rewards, clear, concise, respectful discourse around interesting ethical cases. Please familiarise yourself with the cases.
- The results will be collated at the end of the event and we will contact all schools within 24 hours indicating which teams were awarded first second and third place. The top three teams will be invited to participate in an international involving the top schools from throughout Australasia.

Prior to the event

Students will need to be familiar with the eight ethical cases provided with this kit.

Tech needs

Each team will need to use a laptop or a tablet that has a camera and built in microphone. You coach will pass on the relevant Zoom link soon after he receives it. If you are using your own device try to download the latest version of Zoom as this will save some time on the day.

On the day

- Students will need to be dressed in school uniform on the day.
- Make sure you have a copy of the cases.
- You are <u>not</u> allowed to bring notes into the heats.
- You are allowed to make notes…So make sure you have a pen and blank scrap paper.

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

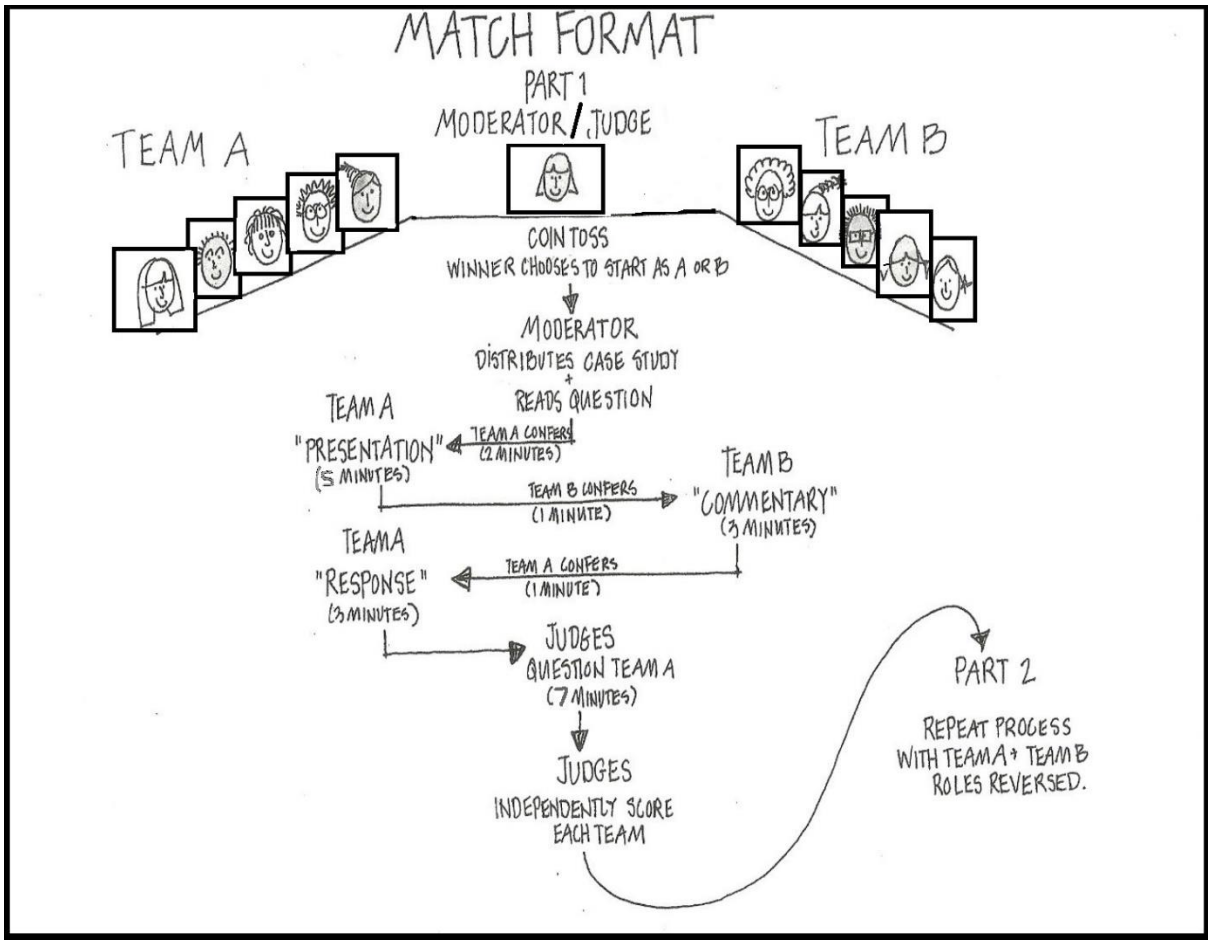
Heat Format, Rules & scoring

The heats will be run in a breakout room within Zoom. 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 invited to have 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) The moderator will provide a 30 second warning when that time is nearly up. 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 1-minute meeting to prepare their response to the critique. Another three-minute period is provided for Team A to respond, again with a 30 second time warning.

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 their questions)

Once the judges have finished their Q&A they will finalize their scores from the first heat and then will read out the next case and Team A swaps rolls with team B and the same process is repeated as above.

At the end of the Heat please make sure you thank the moderator/judge.



Participants

Teams will be made up of five students. Students from years 7-9 (11-14 year olds) only are allowed to participate in the MS Ethics Olympiad. It is important to notify the organisers 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.

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.

MIDDLE 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*----------

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:

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*----------

9. Team B respectful dialogue ____ of 5

10. TOTAL ____ of 60

Comments for Team B:

Print Judges Name _____

Please email the final scores to admin@ethicsolympiad.org