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Moderator Script – Middle School Ethics Bowl

MORNING ROUND

Teams, coaches, judges, and spectators will enter the competition room. Teams should be seated at the competition tables and should all have name tags. Teachers, coaches, and non-competing students should sit with spectators.

Teams cannot review notes or confer with their coaches once the round begins. Students may each have writing utensils and one 3x5 index card, and you will give them scrap paper, but they can have nothing else. Please make sure that the case is concealed as the teams enter and sit.

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

Welcome to the morning round of _____ Ethics Bowl. I am _____ and I will moderate this session. Our judges may now introduce themselves.

The judges introduce themselves.

Will the team members both introduce themselves with their names and year in school?

Team members introduce themselves.

Thank you. Now we will begin the round. Teams, as you know, from this point on in this round you cannot consult with anyone other than your teammates at the table, or review 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. Also a reminder to team members and judges to speak loudly enough so that everyone in the room is able to hear you.

Pass out scrap paper to both teams. Turn to the team to your left.

I will ask your team to call the coin toss heads or tails.

Team makes decision and you flip coin.

The coin is (heads/tails).

Turn to the team that won the toss.

You have the option of presenting first or having the other team present first. What is your choice?

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

Your team will present first and will be Team A on the judges' score sheets.

Judges, please write [Name of Team] next to Team A and [Name of Team] next to Team B on the top of your score sheet. Please also write your name in the space provided.

Now I will distribute the case. Please keep the materials face down until I announce the case.

Pass one copy of the case to each judge and one copy to each team.

Read the case aloud.

Both teams now have up to 2 minutes to confer before Team A begins its presentation. Team B will give its presentation immediately following Team A's presentation.

Give the teams two minutes to confer. If they go to two minutes, tell them that time is up.

Team A has 3 minutes to make its presentation. Any members of the team may speak. Would you like a time reminder?

Give Team A three minutes for its presentation, keeping in mind any time reminders they may have requested (you might write this down). If they go three minutes, tell them that time is up.

Team B has 3 minutes to make its presentation. Any members of the team may speak. Would you like a time reminder?

Give Team B three minutes for its presentation, keeping in mind any time reminders they may have requested (you might write this down). If they go three minutes, tell them that time is up.

Both teams now have up to 2 minutes to confer before they will engage in an open dialogue.

Give the teams two minutes to confer. If they go to two minutes, tell them that time is up.

Now the teams will engage in a self-moderated, open dialogue for up to 10 minutes about the issues that emerged in the presentations. Both teams will be evaluated on the extent to which they consider the other team's analysis and questions, and on the civility and depth with which the teams discuss the case. Please ensure that both teams have ample time to speak, and one team is not taking up most of the time available. I will let you know when one minute is left. The Open Dialogue period will begin with Team A speaking. Remember that this is a time for both teams to articulate and analyze their own views about the case.

Give the teams 10 minutes to discuss the case, remembering the time reminder at one minute.

Thank you. Now the judges will have an opportunity to ask both teams questions. Judges, remember to keep your questions concise. The question-and-answer session may be up to 15 minutes long, depending on the length and number of questions and answers. Team members may confer before responding to a judge's question but should not do so for more than 30 seconds. Judges, would you like time to confer?

If judges want to confer, give them up to 2 minutes and then ask if they are ready.

I will let you know when there are 2 minutes remaining on the clock for this session. You may begin.

Judges will ask questions, and the teams will answer for up to 15 minutes. Remember to remind the judges and the presenting team when there are two minutes left.

Both teams now have up to 2 minutes to confer before each will respond to the following final question: **What point or points did the other team make that really made you think?**

Team B will respond first and then Team A, each for up to one minute.

Give the teams two minutes to confer. If they go to two minutes, tell them that time is up.

Now Team B will give its response to the final question.

Give Team B one minute for its presentation. If they go the full one minute, tell them that time is up.

Thank you. Now Team A will give its response to the final question.

Give Team A one minute for its presentation. If they go the full one minute, tell them that time is up.

Thank you, team members and judges. Let's have a round of applause for the teams.

Team members are now excused, while the judges complete their score sheets.

Judges, please finish your scores for both teams' presentations, open dialogue, answers to your questions, and response to the final question, as well as the teams' respectful dialogue points. Please do so individually, without conferring with one another. At the bottom of the sheet, please circle the team with the higher score, unless your scoring results in a tie.

Please remember that no ties are permitted. If you complete your scores and you find the teams have tied, you should revise your scoring before handing the score sheet to me. We also encourage you to provide comments for the teams on the back of the score sheet.

The judges should hand you their score sheets – three total sheets, one from each judge. Please add up the scores and number of wins for each team. Please remember to check the math carefully!

Someone will come in to collect the score sheets from you. Please do not announce the round's winner.