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Guidance For In-Class Ethics Bowls Student Judges

In an in-class Ethics Bowl, student Judges' questions emerge based on the teams' presentations and the open dialogue. Though there are discussion questions at the end of each case (and sometimes a "match" question), these are to aid ethics bowl teams in thinking through the case. Judges do not have to ask those questions at the bowl.

Suggestions for helping to prepare judges:

- Emphasize the importance of listening: judges should listen carefully to team members and notice when what is said raises questions they would like to ask.
- Also emphasize the importance of neutrality. Judges should try to avoid judging a team based on the judge's personal views of the team members or the issue(s) involved. Judges should avoid letting friendships or other personal feelings sway their decisions and should stay focused on the scoring rubric and the qualities that the competition is meant to assess.
- Judges should make sure they have read and understand the scoring rubric and scoresheet.
- Questions student judges ask might involve:
 - **Clarification** - The judge wants to know what the team means by X.
 - **Thinking about Consequences** - The judge might wonder that if X is true, as the team suggests, wouldn't Y also be true? And isn't Y problematic?
 - **Relevance** - The judge wants to know why the team thinks a particular concept or idea is highly relevant to the case.
 - **Counter-examples**: The judge has thought of a counterexample to a claim made by a team or team member and would like to know what the team has to say about that counterexample.

- **Amplification:** The judge is curious about a point a team has made and wants them to say more about it.
- Questions are meant to be conversation-starters rather than opportunities to call out a team for mistakes or to try to argue with a team.
- It is very helpful for judges to take notes during the presentations and open dialogue so they can remember what was said and what the questions came to their minds.
- Students might view this [short video](#) about judging a High School Ethics Bowl.

To practice developing questions in real time while listening to people, student judges can:

- Listen to an age-appropriate podcast with the goal of writing down some questions they would want to ask the speaker
- Practice with other judges, taking turns talking about an idea and asking questions about what the other person is saying.
- Listening with curiosity while others are talking around them. Perhaps their family members are having a conversation, and they listen and think of the questions that arise for them.