



**UN**  
youth  
australia

## Evatt Debate Guide

Updated May 2017

Preparing for an Evatt round involves a few steps. After you have gotten your resolutions and country assignment, you need to **study the resolution** and do some preliminary **research!**

### What is the UN Security Council?



The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It alone of UN member organs has the ability to approve legally binding resolutions to address threats to global security, and nominates the UN Secretary-General as well as new UN member states.

The Council has broad powers to address international conflict. It may call for a ceasefire, dispatch UN peacekeeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas, establish economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes) or, as a last resort, authorize collective military action.

The Council has fifteen members: five permanent members and ten elected members who serve two-year terms. Each member has one vote; resolutions need three-fifths of Council members voting in favour to pass, with the proviso that none of the five permanent members vote against the resolution. The ability of the permanent members to block resolutions is known as the “veto power”. This power is used sparingly – with the exception of the Cold-War fraught first ten years of the UN’s existence, only one resolution per year (on average) is vetoed outright.

## Members of the UN Security Council in 2017

One of the great things about Evatt is that the countries on the Council rotate every year. This means every year's competition is subtly different. The Council is composed of 15 Members:

Five permanent members: [China](#), [France](#), [Russian Federation](#), [the United Kingdom](#), and [the United States](#), and

Ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (with end of term date):

- [Bolivia](#) (2018)
- [Egypt](#) (2017)
- [Ethiopia](#) (2018)
- [Italy](#) (2018)
- [Japan](#) (2017)
- [Kazakhstan](#) (2018)
- [Senegal](#) (2017)
- [Sweden](#) (2018)
- [Ukraine](#) (2017)
- [Uruguay](#) (2017)

# Resolutions

During the competition teams will spend their time debating proposed resolutions of the Security Council. A resolution is a statement of how the Security Council intends to deal with a problem.

Each resolution contains a single extended sentence with a number of clauses. A resolution is split into two sections. The preambulatory clauses give an introduction as to why the Security Council is debating the particular clauses, whilst the operative clauses dictate the Security Council's intended actions. Only the operative clauses can be amended.

To better explain what a resolution is and how it works, see the sample below:

**The Question of Iraqi Non-Compliance with the Security Council** ← Resolution Title

**The SECURITY COUNCIL:**

*Recalling* all previous relevant Security Council resolutions especially Resolutions 678 (1990) of 29 November 1990, 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 and 1441 (2002) of 8 November 2002,

*Recognising* the threat that Iraq's non-compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and long range missiles poses to international peace and security,

*Deploring* Iraq's continuing inability to co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC),

*Determined* to secure full compliance of all Security Council Resolutions,

*Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,* ←

1. **Declares** that Iraq has been and continues to be in material breach of its obligations under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

2. **Authorises** the use of force to ensure Iraqi compliance with all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

3. **Further authorises** the United States of America (USA) to lead a coalition of all willing Member Nations to ensure Iraqi compliance;

4. **Calls on** all Member Nations to  
(i) assist the US-lead coalition in any possible manner;  
(ii) support UN agencies in dealing with the humanitarian effects of UN efforts to ensure Iraq's compliance;

5. **Determines** to remain actively seized of the matter. ←

The preamble starts with a list of past resolutions on this topic.

**Preamble** (not numbered) explains **circumstances** and **rationale** behind resolution. Can't be amended.

The Preamble ends with a citation of legal authority – if it invokes Chapter VII, it is legally binding. If it invokes Chapter VI, it's not.

**Operative paragraphs** are numbered and say what actions the Council takes. They can be amended.

This last clause is a legal formula that allows the Council to keep this resolution's topic on the agenda. Usually, it is pro forma.

# How to Debate

## The Basics of Evatt Debate Format

An Evatt debate is a simulation of the Security Council, adjusted for maximum debating opportunities. A President (always an Evatt judge) chairs the simulation.

## Starting Debate

First, the President picks the resolution we will debate. Then, they will ask for a member state to propose the resolution and second the resolution. When you propose or second a resolution, you are merely in favour (you can amend the resolution if you like, but if you had to vote now you would vote yes).

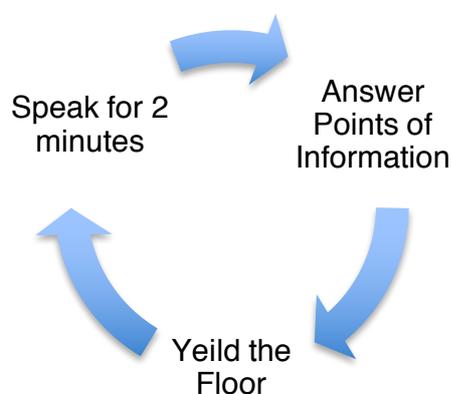
Once a proposer and seconder volunteer and are picked by the President, we begin the formal debate cycle!

## Formal Debate – a simple cycle

Evatt simulations are centred on formal debate. This is where your country is invited to give a speech for or against the resolution. Under the rules, you can usually give only one formal speech per resolution.

After one of you or your teammate gives a speech, you or your teammate (you can switch) must respond to questions, called "Points of Information," from other countries. Usually you answer between one and three of these per speech.

Then, after you have answered points of information, you need to Yield the Floor – you can either yield to another country (a good strategy, since you want your side to keep control of debate) or you can yield "to the President" which means the next country opposed to you will next get to give a speech. And so the cycle continues.

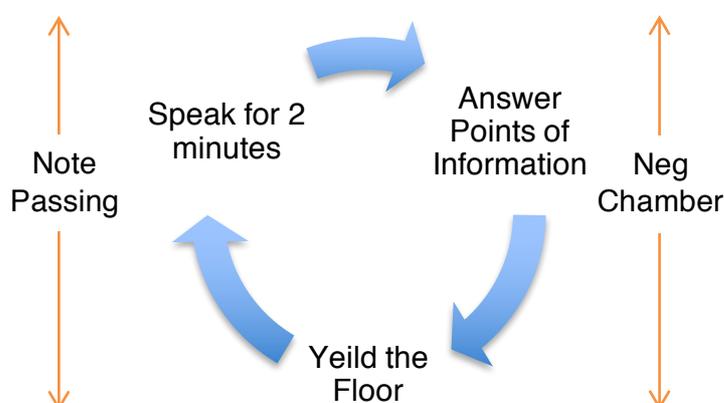


## Two things happen during Formal Debate – Note-Passing and Negotiation

While this formal cycle is continues (someone speaking, answering questions, or yielding), all teams can do two other things.

The first is note-passing, where you can send notes to other countries or the President via a facilitator.

The second is the negotiation chamber. This is a space outside of the main ("debate") chamber where one member of your team can quietly talk to other countries. Make use of it!



## Two things disrupt formal debate – amendments and caucus

Caucus time is when debate stops and delegates can move around and talk informally with other teams to negotiate. Usually caucus is limited to a few minutes. Remember to behave in a diplomatic manner.

An amendment is the heart of the diplomatic process at Evatt. This is how you change the resolution! The President chooses when the Security Council considers amendments, and interrupts formal debate to bring up an amendment. Amendments can make three types of changes – strike (removing a clause from the resolution), amend (editing a clause) or adding a new clause.

### The Amendment Process

First, think of an amendment that advances your country’s agenda.



Show the amendment to other teams.

If they think it should be considered, they can sign it with their country’s name.



Send the amendment to the President!



When they think it is time to consider amendments, Presidents look at all the amendments they’ve been handed and pick the amendment with the most signatures and the most significance to debate.



The President reads the amendment and can grant the proposer of the amendment 30 seconds to explain what the amendment aims to achieve.



The Council then votes on whether or not to debate the amendment.



#### VOTE TO DEBATE

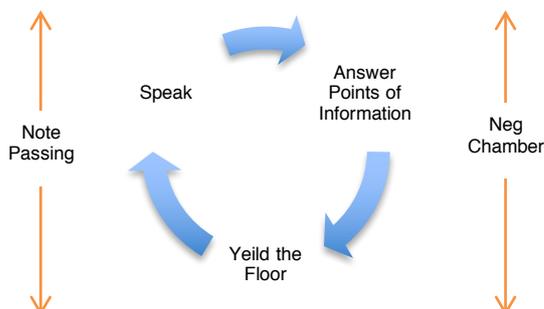
↙ (PASSES) (FAILS) ↘

IF WE DEBATE

Standard debate as for a resolution.

IF WE DON’T DEBATE

Or if the amendment debate (left) is finished, go straight to a vote.

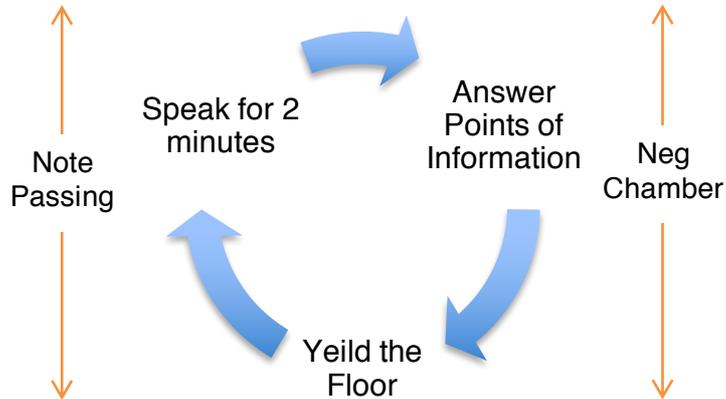


#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT

Majority to pass. After the amendment passes or fails, we return to debate on the resolution where we left off.

# The Whole Debate Process

Resolution Chosen  
 ↓  
 Proposer and Seconder chosen  
 ↓  
**BEGIN DEBATE**  
 (Note passing and Neg. Chamber only open after Proposer speaks)



Can be interrupted by caucus time or an amendment

↓  
 Speakers' List Exhausted (no more speakers)  
 OR Debate Closed by the President (time up)  
 ↓  
 Negotiation Room closed, note passing stopped  
 ↓  
 The proposer makes a "right of reply" – a final summary & rebuttal  
 ↓  
 Vote is taken by roll call – needs nine votes in favour and no vetoes to pass  
 ↓  
**RESOLUTION PASSED/FAILED**

## Other Procedural Notes

Below are a few more complex points of procedure:

### *Points of Order*

If during a speech a delegate says something offensive to you or your country, or goes off on a tangent, or breaks the rules, you can interrupt them with a Point of Order. These need to be made **boldly**: rise, say "Point of Order" clearly, and then await the ruling of the President.

### *Rules on Yielding*

The Proposer and Seconder may not yield, but the proposer of an amendment *may* yield. You may yield only to another country on the speaker's list.