



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on OEC at Waterloo
 January 29th to 31st .

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1. Outline of the Competition

Briefly summarize the competition you competed in (i.e. Jr. Design, Sr. Design, Consulting, Debating, Communications or Innovation), how it is run and the just of the rules. Do not discuss the specific project you were required to complete, this is discussed in the next section. The purpose of this section is to give those unfamiliar with the conference a description of the competition

The debating usually begins early Saturday morning and finishes early in the afternoon. The competition is a series of short 40 minute debates that happen back to back. The rules are explained the night before with a question period. Take this opportunity to ask any questions, no matter how stupid it seems because the judges and organizers are generally very helpful. The Guelph judges in particular are laid back and will just tell you to have fun with it, which is what you probably need to hear. We had 7 other schools put in debate teams in our year. We had to debate 4 times.

2. This Year's Task & How the Team Approached It

State the task you were assigned to complete for your competition. Briefly discuss the solution your team developed. How did your solution compare and differ to those of the other teams? If you were required to create a power point presentation for your design, submit it at the end of this report.

At the start of each debate competitors are given the resolution that will be discussed. At this time the debaters have 10 minutes to prepare their arguments. Don't count on the preparation time being 10 minutes because they seem to change it depending on how the judges feel. Prep time could range from 5-15 minutes. The four arguments that we had to debate were:

1. Be it resolved that standardized tests are not beneficial for learning.
2. Be it resolved that economic incentives are the only solution to climate change.
3. Be it resolved that entrepreneurs are necessary for a balanced economy.
4. Be it resolved that happiness is necessary in the workplace.

3. Evaluation of Performance

i) Conference Organizers

Evaluate how the conference was run overall, highlighting strengths and weaknesses, and what could be done to improve the experience.

They handled it well. Free wine was great. Didn't know about it till later though, I wish they would have told us earlier. Other than that, good food I guess?

The competitions seemed to run very smoothly. It would have been nice to have some snacks around though. The schedule for the debate didn't really leave much time to go out and get food and by the end I was pretty hungry. The hotel was great, the volunteers were really helpful and the awards banquet was just the right length of time.

ii) Team

Evaluate your team's performance at the competition and representation of the University of Guelph. How would you have improved your design if you had more time or were to start again? How did you manage your time and deal with any team conflicts and group dynamics during a short and stressful time period? What tips would you give to a team competing in this category at next year's competition?

We won one debate and lost 3, not making it into the semi finals. There were seven teams in total, with only 4 making it on to the semis. It seems the first debate was a warm up and the rest of them felt a lot more comfortable after.

For future teams planning on debating at OEC, practice is definitely the best thing you could do. Its one thing to prepare arguments on paper, but delivering them in front of judges and spectators is the hard part. We found that each time we debated we got a little better so if you are really serious try to get a lot of actual practice in before the competition.