



MIPLG 2023 DEBATE COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. The theme for the 2023 debate competition is **Intellectual Property and The Digital Economy in Africa.**

The competition is in four stages described below as follows:

- a. Preliminary Stage (Essay submission)
- b. Stage 2 (Quarterfinals)
- c. Stage 3 (semi-finals)
- d. Finals

Registration and entry into the competition:

To participate in the competition, each team must consist of two students of the same institution or university, both registered on the MIPLG community and network. The participants are to register on the MIPLG website and follow MIPLG on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter for updates on the competition.

Upon joining the MIPLG Community, the team shall be eligible to register for the competition.

Entry into the competition shall be done by completing the competition form on the MIPLG website and providing the requested data which shall include

- i. Full names of team members.
- ii. Country.
- iii. Name of the university where the team members are currently enrolled.
- iv. High-resolution passport image of each team member.
- v. A valid means of school identification
- vi. Submission of an essay on the theme provided below.

Preliminary stage.

2. Each participating team shall submit a written essay on the theme "**Intellectual Property And The Digital Economy in Africa**"
3. **Entries must be submitted on or before 23:00hrs (GMT +1) on Friday, October 06, 2023, to <https://myiplawguide.com/debate-2023/>**
4. Submitted Essays must comply with the following:
 - a. A maximum of 1500 words excluding footnotes and references.
 - b. Font type must be Times New Roman; font size is 12 for the body of the work and 10 for footnotes.
 - c. Converted and submitted in PDF format.
5. 8 qualifying teams shall be selected at this stage for the next round by the judges and will be announced via our website and social media handles.
6. The essays will be double-blind peer-reviewed. Therefore, the submitted essays should not bear any indication as to the names of the team members and institutions. The names of the team members shall only be stated in the emails.

Quarterfinals

1. The topic for this stage shall be published on MIPLG Website. Qualifying schools shall compete over a debate or presentation session before a panel of judges on a date to be communicated at that stage.
2. The teams shall be grouped and would compete for the available spots at the semifinal stage of the competition.
3. The debate guidelines to be released at the beginning of the debate/presentation shall apply as the Rules guiding the debate/presentations.
4. The winner of each group shall proceed to the semifinals.
5. The Qualifying schools for this stage will be published on our website and social media handles.

Semi-finals.

1. The topic(s) for this stage shall be published at the conclusion of the quarterfinal stage. The semi-final stage shall be a debate before a panel of Judges.
2. The debate guidelines to be released at the beginning of the debate/presentation shall apply as the Rules guiding the debate/presentations.
3. The teams for this stage shall be paired and would compete for the available slots in the finals.
4. The Qualifying schools from this stage shall be published at the conclusion of the semi-final debates.

FINALS.

1. The topic(s) for this stage of the competition will be published at the conclusion of the semi-final stage.
2. The debate guidelines to be released at the beginning of the debate/presentation shall apply as the Rules guiding the debate/presentations.
3. The Judges shall comment on the presentations at the end of the session and will declare the results immediately.
4. Results shall be published on the MIPLG website and social media handles after the official announcement

AWARDS:

1. Winners

- i. Three hundred United States Dollars (USD\$300.00)
- ii. Slots on the MIPLG Mentorship program.
- iii. IP Internship.
- iv. WIPO IP Course/Training Award

iv. Certificates of recognition.

2. Second Place

- i. 200 hundred United States Dollars (USD\$200.00)
- ii. Slots on the MIPLG Mentorship program.
- iii. IP Internship.
- iv. Certificates of recognition.
- v. WIPO IP Course/Training Award

WHAT THE JUDGES LOOK OUT FOR:

1. Originality
2. Persuasiveness and coherence of arguments
3. Clarity of expression
4. Relevance to the theme or topic
5. Quality of research and recommendations.

Also applicable to the Oral Debate

6. Appearance and composure of the competitors. Competitors must be dressed appropriately.
7. Expression and advocacy skills.



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