

# CALL FOR ENTRY SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition

– ensuring that science becomes part of our everyday dialogue

## Attention: Debates and Science educators

We invite all schools with a keen interest in debating – but in this instance from a scientific stance – to enter the 2016 SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition.

The primary objective of the competition is to stimulate interest amongst learners to study towards careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology (SET) by researching and debating high-level topics. It also aims to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, technology and engineering in South Africa.

### Who may enter?

Learners from grades 9 – 11 who are:

- ✦ interested in developing their scientific research and information literacy skills;
- ✦ critical thinkers; and
- ✦ willing to work as a team to present logical, clear arguments.

At least two of the learners must take science-related subjects at school.

### How does it work?

The SAASTA Schools Debates structure is not based on proposition/opposition presentations, but allows debaters to engage with one another and move toward a common resolution. Perhaps one of the most interesting features is the mini-imbizos by means of which learners get to interact with one another and share ideas through breakaway discussions and by making use of social media.

**Closing date for entries:** 20 February 2016

*Only 10 schools per province will be chosen.*

**Provincial workshops for all successful teams:** 16 April 2016

*Teams will attend workshops in their various provinces before start of competitions.*

**Provincial competitions:** 14, 21 and 28 May 2016

*Teams will compete against each other in their provinces.*

**National Final:** 6 October 2016

### The selection process

Due to its popularity and the fact that the competition is limited to 10 schools per province, each school has to submit a speech to be judged by external adjudicators. The schools per province participating in the 2016 competition will be shortlisted from these speeches.

Speeches must be submitted in either of the following formats:

- ✦ Written (400 words); or
- ✦ Voice recording (4 minutes + script of 400 words); or
- ✦ Video clip (4 minutes + script of 400 words)

The speech topic is the following: Do you think nanotechnology should be used in cleaning polluted water?

Guidelines on the video, essay and voice recordings, as well as additional research information, will be provided to interested schools together with an entry form.

After the speeches have been submitted, the external adjudicator team will choose 10 winning entries per province. These schools will then enter the competition by participating in provincial workshops as well as competitions.

### Interested?

To receive an entry form and detailed information, please send an email with your name, telephone number, school name and return email address or fax number to [lizelle@wwmedia.co.za](mailto:lizelle@wwmedia.co.za).

Also visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za) or check in on our Facebook page – SAASTA Debates – for more information.

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