



Ontario Ethics Bowl

Registration Package 2021-2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Welcome Message.....	1
2.0 Getting Started.....	2
2.1 Putting your mind at ease.....	2
2.1 Reading the cases	2
2.2 Dividing the work.....	2
2.3 Setting a practice schedule.....	2
2.4 Creating a workspace.....	2
2.5 Creating a team Instagram	2
3.0 An Ethics Bowl Match.....	3
3.1.Driver and Passenger.....	3
3.1.1 Intro:	3
3.1.2 The Driver:	3
3.1.3 The Passenger:	3
3.2. Match Outline.....	3
4.0 Practice Tips.....	4
(i) The Argument Builder (AB).....	4
(ii) The Critical Thinking Package (CTP).....	4
(iii) Thinking over researching.....	4
5.0 Things you need to know for this year! Read now!	5
Registration Quiz	5
The Calendar	5
Argument Builders (AB)	5
Exhibition Matches	5
6.0 The Critical Thinking Competition (CTC)	6
7.0 The Team Spirit Award.....	7
8.0 Ethics Bowl Canada Party.....	7
9.0 CHECKLIST.....	8
APPENDIX.....	9



1.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

The critical and active engagement of youth is imperative to a healthy democracy. Responsible for being the leaders of the future, our young people deserve a formal space where they can freely explore issues that will, ultimately, have a lasting impact on their future and the future of the next generations.

The question remains, which values should we, the Ethics Bowl, try to instill in this year's competition? To start with, we ought to encourage students to view the Bowl as much more than a competition. It should be a way of speaking, a way of thinking, and most deeply, a way of *being*. Students participating in the Bowl should not approach the other team as enemies in war but as partners in conversation. By looking each other eye-to-eye (and "I" to "I"), teams should trust that, when in the heat of a good match, they are engaged in a process which is bigger than themselves, the judges, and the awards: they should be focused on coming to terms with the views of fellow citizens in a respectful, honest, and rational way. What are we to make of a democracy that doesn't practice these values?

With this in mind, I encourage the students of the 2021-2022 Ontario Ethics Bowl to take intellectual risks; to explore the corners, creaks, and caveats of every case; to state their disagreement with humility and to receive criticism with charity; to deliver arguments with reason, precision, and research but also with humour, charisma, and spontaneity.

The organizing committee always strives to offer more than our students expect, and this year is no different. I am thrilled to announce that this year's OEB has added THREE (that's right, THREE!) bonus features to the competition. Below is a sneak peek. Enjoy!

(i) Argument Builders (AB)

- Teams will submit their arguments in advance of the competition and receive written feedback from an Ethics Bowl advisor.

(ii) Critical Thinking Competition (CTC)

- Students will have the option to register (as individuals) for the CTC competition. This will permit them to access the [Critical Thinking Package](#), study its content, test their knowledge, and win prizes!

(iii) Team Spirit Award (TSA)

- Teams will accumulate Spirit Points as they climb the ladder to team-spirit-glory! Again, a great prize awaits the winning team.

Good luck to the teams, and let the power of strong arguments be with you all!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Senese
Director, Ontario High School Ethics Bowl

Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto, Mississauga



2.0 GETTING STARTED

2.1 PUTTING YOUR MIND AT EASE

Starting your Ethics Bowl journey can be overwhelming. The first thing to remember is that you can, at any time, request a Zoom meeting with Director, Jeffrey Senese. He is always willing to answer your questions.

2.1 READING THE CASES

- Members of the team should carefully and meticulously read each of this year's ten cases.
- When doing so, take notes and ask yourself:
 - (i) "Is this something I'm interested in?" and (ii) "What are my views regarding the cases?"

2.2 DIVIDING THE WORK

- Based on your answers to questions (i) and (ii), assign team members to each of the ten cases. You should have a *minimum* of two students per case.
- NOTE: Not every student is required to speak about every case. Judges will not penalize teams who have one designated speaker per case. (We don't recommend or encourage having only one speaker, but it is permissible).

2.3 SETTING A PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- Find a time that works best for everyone and meet weekly at the same time.
- We recommend a minimum of one hour of prep work per week.
- Tip: We recommend you invite feedback from your fellow teammates and coach about your [Argument Builders](#).

2.4 CREATING A WORKSPACE

- Create a shared, virtual location where all team information can be easily accessed and organized.
- We recommend using a google drive, the email for which can be your team name, i.e., Team JeffreySchool@gmail.com. Should your team have general questions, you can email us using your team's email.
- By creating this email address, you automatically receive free access to a google drive workspace, where you can store documents including the Argument Builder.

2.5 CREATING A TEAM INSTAGRAM

- We HIGHLY, HIGHLY, HIGHLY encourage every team to create a team Instagram:

[insert school name]_OEB

- The Ontario Ethics Bowl's IG (@ethicsbwl_ontario) will be the go-to place for all things related to this year's competition. You can contact us directly on IG, but only via your team's IG!



3.0 AN ETHICS BOWL MATCH

3.1. DRIVER AND PASSENGER

3.1.1 INTRO:

At the beginning of each match, teams are randomly assigned as either Team A or Team B. Team A is the Driver for the first case, and Team B is the Driver for the second case.

3.1.2 THE DRIVER:

The Driver is the team that takes the lead on a case. They direct the conversation, providing reasons, examples, and objections to a central position. They also respond to the passengers' and to the judges' questions. The Driver speaks (uninterrupted) during The Presentation, The Response to Commentary, and The Judge Q & A. *(For further advice about how to be a good Driver, see our website's calendar for an upcoming Instagram post on this topic).*

3.1.3 THE PASSENGER:

The Passenger's first job is to listen actively and intently. The passenger may only speak once (The Commentary); during this time, the Passenger engages (uninterrupted) with the Driver's position by asking critical, clarificatory, and suggestive questions. *(For further advice about how to be a good Passenger, see our website's calendar for an upcoming Instagram post on this topic).*

3.2. MATCH OUTLINE

CASE #1

- Team A: Presentation (5 minutes)
 - Team B: Commentary (3 minutes)
 - Team A: Response to Commentary (3 minutes)
 - Team A: Judge Q & A (10 minutes)
-

CASE #2

- Team B: Presentation (5 minutes)
- Team A: Commentary (3 minutes)
- Team B: Response to Commentary (3 minutes)
- Team B: Judge Q & A (10 minutes)



4.0 PRACTICE TIPS

(I) THE ARGUMENT BUILDER (AB)

- Completion of the (AB) is mandatory.
- The AB will help to structure your argument in accordance with the rubric and judge expectations.
- *Constantly writing (and rewriting!) your team's arguments via this resource is the single-best way to practice for the Ethics Bowl.*
- View the [AB PDF](#) for more details.

(II) THE CRITICAL THINKING PACKAGE (CTP)

- Use of the CRP is optional, but it is strongly recommended, especially for the maverick students who want to exceed expectations.
- The CRP contains practice problems for students to test their knowledge.
- Professor Emeritus and logician extraordinaire, Dr. Bernard Katz, and Jeffrey Senese, Director of the Ontario Ethics Bowl, created the CTP in order to (a) provide students with a mini competition (see [HERE](#)), and (b) to assist students to learn how to structure their thoughts using a philosophical framework. The CTP's content is challenging, but we are confident ethics bowlers will find it useful and rise to the occasion.

(III) THINKING OVER RESEARCHING

- Do not: compile a mountain of stats, data, and information for each case.
- Do: Think about each case conceptually, i.e., the different angles, perspectives, and hypotheticals associated with each case.
- Do not: Get stuck in an echo chamber, i.e., a place where you look only for facts which support your position.
- Do: Whenever you arrive at a possible 'solution' ask yourself, "What is the best possible objection to this solution?" "How might this solution be wrong or go wrong?"



5.0 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS YEAR! READ NOW!

REGISTRATION QUIZ

- i. All teams **MUST** complete the registration quiz.
- ii. Quiz [HERE](#)

THE CALENDAR

- iii. Information related to this year's event will be posted to our calendar.
- iv. Examples: exhibition matches, training sessions, due dates etc.,
- v. You can find the calendar on our [website](#)

ARGUMENT BUILDERS (AB)

- i. Completion is mandatory
- ii. Due date is found on the calendar
- iii. At least one Ethics Bowl Advisor will comment on your AB's and schedule a meeting with you to discuss the comments.
 - a.) The process of submission and feedback with Bowl Advisors will occur once for each team.
 - b.) Meetings will occur in January and February.
 - c.) AB's are simply preparatory tools. They will not directly impact how your team is scored on event-day.
- iv. Argument Builder [HERE](#)

EXHIBITION MATCHES

- i. We will start to schedule exhibition matches on Monday, January 17
- ii. How to schedule EM's
 - a.) Email: exhibition@ontarioethicsbowl.ca
 - b.) Indicate the times when your team is available for exhibition matches.
 - c.) We will post your team's availability on the calendar for other teams to view.
 - d.) If you would like to play against another team (based on that team's availability as indicated on the calendar), email exhibition@ontarioethicsbowl.ca saying, "I see that school [*insert the other school's name*] is available at time [*insert time*]. My team [*insert your team's name*] would like to play in this match."
 - e.) All exhibition matches will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.



6.0 THE CRITICAL THINKING COMPETITION (CTC)

The CTC is a competition for individual members of the 2021-2022 Ethics Bowl season. On Saturday, February 19, at 10:00 A.M. students will write a one-hour assessment on formal critical thinking skills. The content of the test will be entirely focused on the material from this year's [Critical Thinking Package](#).

Prizes are as follows:

Tier 1¹

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$100

3rd Place: \$50

The top three winners will be announced to an audience of around 500 attendees during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2021-2022 Ontario High School Ethics Bowl.

Tier 2

Student placing 4th and 8th will receive an honorable mention during the Opening Ceremony.

Tier 3

Students scoring over 85% on the test will receive certification from the University of Toronto Mississauga, Department of Philosophy, stating that the recipient is a certified Level 1 Ethics Bowl Critical Thinker.

Rules

- (i) Participants must write the test with their cameras on
- (ii) Participants' zoom pages must indicate participants' full name
- (iii) Participants must register before December 6th at 10:00 A.M.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Good luck!

¹ Places are determined based on participants' final test scores.



7.0 THE TEAM SPIRIT AWARD

The TSA is awarded to the team that accumulates the most Spirit Points before the 2021-2022 Ontario Ethics Bowl (March 5 & 6).

Prize

- \$250 in the form of: The Ultimate Dining Gift Card
- Announced during the Opening Ceremonies
- Highlighted on the OEB IG

Spirit Points

1 point: Create a Team Instagram [*insert school name*]_{OEB}

2 points: Post a team photo and tag @ethicsbowl_ontario

3 points: Post individual profiles for each team member indicating the team member's (i) Grade, (ii) favourite 2021-2022 Ethics Bowl case and (iii) all-time favourite movie.

2 points: At least four team members participate in the CTC

3 points: If, at minimum, two team members score over 85% on the CTC test

2 points: If, at minimum, 4 team members attend the **Ethics Bowl Canada Party**

5 points: Teams participate in a minimum of three exhibition matches

10 points: Submit the [registration quiz](#) before Wednesday, November 24, 2021

8.0 ETHICS BOWL CANADA PARTY

Hundreds of students from coast-to-coast participate in the Ethics Bowl.

The EBC party is a fantastic opportunity for students and teachers to meet other like-minded people from around the country.

The EBC party will take place on Gather Town, a virtual space where one can 'walk' around the map and interact both visually and verbally with others. Those new to Gather Town can watch this easy [tutorial video](#).

The party will include special keynote speakers as well as inter-provincial games.

This party will be a ton of fun! Don't miss out!



9.0 CHECKLIST

- Ensure every member of your team has access to this package
- Complete the registration quiz
- Created a team Instagram
- Created a team Gmail account
- Be aware of the deadline for the Argument Builders
- Set a team practice schedule
- Know where to find the OEB calendar



APPENDIX

[Registration quiz](#)

[Argument Builders](#)

[Critical Thinking Package](#)

[Registration form: Critical Thinking Competition](#)

[Ontario Ethics Bowl website](#)

Ontario Ethics Bowl Instagram: @ethicsbowl_ontario

2022 REGIONAL CASES

