



Summary of WSU Survey Responses 2010

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Introduction

Every second year the Union undertakes a survey of school convenors, coaches, adjudicators, and debaters in order to establish whether we are adequately fulfilling our purpose. As of 3 PM on the 15th of November 2010 we had received 25 responses. A summary of these responses is below.

Summary of Responses

Please indicate what involvement you have had with Wellington debating this year:

School Convenor	11	31%
Coach	32	91%
Debater	3	9%
Other	2	6%

Please indicate which grades and competitions your school has entered this year:

Senior Premier A	17	49%
Senior Premier B	20	57%
Senior Certificate	24	69%
Junior Premier	17	49%
Junior Certificate	22	63%
Impromptu Cup	7	20%

Stockley Cup/Dunsheath Plate 8 23%

If your school entered Senior Premier A, how would you rate the quality of organisation of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	5	14%
Very Good	6	17%

If your school entered Senior Premier A, how would you rate the quality of adjudication in this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	4	11%
Very Good	7	20%

If your school entered Senior Premier B, how would you rate the quality of organisation of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	4	11%
Very Good	10	29%

If your school entered Senior Premier B, how would you rate the quality of adjudication of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	4	11%
Very Good	10	29%

If your school entered Senior Certificate, how would you rate the quality of organisation of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	4	11%
Good	7	20%
Very Good	6	17%

If your school entered Senior Certificate, how would you rate the quality of adjudication of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	2	6%
Average	5	14%
Good	9	26%
Very Good	2	6%

If your school entered Junior Premier, how would you rate the quality of organisation of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Average	0	0%
Good	3	9%
Very Good	9	26%

If your school entered Junior Premier, how would you rate the quality of adjudication of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	3	9%
Good	10	29%
Very Good	1	3%

If your school entered Junior Certificate, how would you rate the quality of organisation in this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	2	6%
Good	6	17%
Very Good	10	29%

If your school entered Junior Certificate, how would you rate the quality of adjudication of this grade?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	5	14%
Good	8	23%
Very Good	4	11%

If your school entered Impromptu Cup, how would you rate the quality of organisation for this competition?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	1	3%
Average	2	6%
Good	1	3%
Very Good	1	3%

If your school entered Impromptu Cup, how would you rate the quality of adjudication for this competition?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	2	6%
Very Good	3	9%

If your school entered Stockley Cup/Dunsheath Plate, how would you rate the quality of organisation for this competition?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	1	3%
Average	2	6%
Good	4	11%
Very Good	0	0%

If you attended the coaching workshop at the beginning of the year, how did you rate the experience?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Average	0	0%
Good	5	14%
Very Good	3	9%

If you attended the adjudication workshop at the beginning of the year, how did you rate the experience?

Very Poor	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
Average	0	0%
Good	3	9%
Very Good	3	9%

This year we trialled an online results form, whereas previously results have had to be emailed and the physical forms sent to the grade convenor. In comparison to the previous system, how would you rate the online results form?

Substantially inferior	0	0%
Inferior	2	6%
About the same	5	14%
Superior	19	54%
Substantially superior	9	26%

If there was one thing you would like the Wellington Speaking Union to concentrate on next year, what would it be?

Improving adjudicator quality	5	14%
Providing more opportunity for debating	6	17%
More workshops	8	23%
Better direct communication with coaches and school convenors	7	20%
More online resources	3	9%

Other 6

17%

Other responses included:

- Earlier warning about dates
- Making it much easier to get hold of adjudicators. This aspect of debating is a nightmare.
- Adjudicators- there were very few to choose from and it was difficult to get one
- Improving access to adjudicators
- make the online system for reporting results work
- certificates used to be sent out to schools at the end of the year for all debators. Just a small thing but kids felt chuffed getting one.

Taking all of the available competitions and other services into account, do you believe that the Wellington Speaking Union provides value for money?

Not at all	0	0%
Sometimes	2	6%
Usually	17	49%
Always	16	46%

Other Comments

The survey also provided the opportunity for respondents to provide any further comments. They were as follows:

- an e-mail check at the very beginning of the year to check that e-mails are being received
- Impromptu cup & stokely up should have been held much earlier in the year to maximise participation
- Would it be possible to let schools know about tournaments/competitions (regionals, impromptu cup etc) well in advance? One week notice is not enough!
- Senior Cert teams should be allocated an adjudicator for each match.
- Availability of adjudicators continues to be a bit of an issue. As stated above would like to see more opportunity, especially for average teams in big grades who may only

end up debating 3 or 4 times and would prefer to do more. Overall I think you're doing a great job! Thanks for your efforts - have appreciated prompt communication

- would be good to have a bit more notice prior to russel mcveagh/ impromptu cup etc. hard to organise rams forms permission slips transport in the space of a couple of days
- This year, it was considerably more difficult to find adjudicators. The adjudicator list should indicate whether adjudicators are also coaches, and at which level. Often the adjudicators I contacted were unavailable due to coaching responsibilities. I regularly had to contact over a dozen adjudicators before finding one who was available. It made for a very stressful experience this year.
- Please note that I have only replied for my area of debating, not the school as a whole. However, I firmly believe that the system of having to "beg" for a 3rd party adjudicator needs overhauling. It is this aspect that makes debating a negative experience.
- Starting times. We travel for an hour to get to Prem B debates, only to be delayed by local colleges whose teams haven't arrived on time. Prompt start times would be appreciated.
- When there is a dispute about the result- and the winning team want to change the result due to poor adjudication as they knew they lost - then the convenor could be more flexible on overturning the result.
- Impressed with the focus on current topical issues.
- Better NOTICE of events/changes to the calendar etc. It is next to impossible to organise students at the last minute.
- Just the feeling that we lost a lot of close decisions this year including one where the adjudicator was obviously balancing up which way to decide. So I could either say that's just unfortunate or if we had been just a little bit better those losses would have been wins.