

Junior A, Round Five

TOPIC: That the British Monarchy is irrelevant to Australians.

1. Type of Topic

This is an empirical debate. This means that neither team proposes a model or any kind of policy change within the world. Instead, they debate about the world as it currently exists.

In this debate, the affirmative team needs to argue that the Barbie franchise is currently bad for women, and the negative team needs to argue the opposite. This will require the teams to settle upon a test, that is, a set of criteria they use to determine what makes something 'bad for women', and whether the Barbie franchise is doing this. It is the role of the affirmative team to propose the test, and the negative team can either accept the affirmative team's test, or they can propose their own test.

A good test usually has around three criteria, and each argument raised in the debate should be related back to the test in a logical manner. In the affirmative team's case, each argument should demonstrate how one or more criteria of the test are met; and in the negative team's case, each argument should demonstrate how one or more of the criteria of the test are not met.

2. Background / Context

The British Monarchy is the formal name given to the British royal family, who rule as the head of state of the United Kingdom as well as over Commonwealth nations such as Australia. This means that officially, the leader of the British Monarchy, currently King Charles, is the highest power in any nation which the British Monarchy rules over.

Until Australian federation in 1901, this meant that the monarchy had significant power and impact over the way Australia was run. Since then, the direct impact of the monarchy has lessened in many aspects, as now most if not all-important decisions are made by the Prime Minister of Australia. There are still official acts which the Monarchy carries out. You should investigate this; one example includes the appointment of the Governor General. The monarchy also carries out many ceremonial and diplomatic duties which relate to Australia.

You must approach this topic with caution. The question is not whether the British Monarchy is good or bad for Australia, or whether Australia should try to cut ties from the Monarchy, or anything of this sort. This debate is specifically about whether the British Monarchy currently is irrelevant to Australia, or whether it is

still relevant. The affirmative team should try to convince the adjudicator that the British Monarchy is no longer relevant to Australia as a nation, the negative team should try to convince the adjudicator that the British Monarchy is still relevant to Australia.

3. Questions for Consideration

- What does the British Monarchy do
 - Politically/legally?
 - Ceremonially/symbolically?
- How do these actions affect Australians, directly or indirectly?
- Does the British Monarchy have more power elsewhere which is relevant to Australia?
- Does Australia's association with the Monarchy impact their interactions with other nations in any way?
- Does Australian society have any connection to the Monarchy, whether that be positive or negative?

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