

3rd Annual Inter-Secondary Schools Debate Competition

Competition Phase: Stage 1 — Online Registration & Essay Qualification Round

Target Demographic: Junior Secondary Schools (JSS 1 - JSS 3)

Submission Window: June 10th – June 26th, 2026

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the GiftedBrain Inter-Secondary Schools Debate Competition. This year, we are thrilled to expand our footprint state-wide across Ogun State, challenging the intellectual capacity, research acumen, and rhetorical clarity of the region's brightest junior minds. Under our structural platform, this competition provides a rigorous academic space where students do not merely deliver surface opinions, but engage deeply with global frameworks, structural policies, and systemic realities.

Stage 1 serves as the foundational open-entry qualifier. Every participating school must register their profile online and submit a formal, research-supported essay addressing the official debate title. The grading matrices for this round are designed to screen for analytical depth, institutional intent, and strict structural compliance.

THE OFFICIAL STAGE 1 DEBATE TITLE

"Global Educational Equity by the 2030 target: An achievable reality or an impossible milestone?"

CONTEXT FOR WRITERS (MANDATORY RESEARCH DIRECTION):

In 2015, the United Nations established Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)—a historic global commitment to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all by 2030. Since its inception, international bodies, governments, and global coalitions have deployed unprecedented resources, digital innovations, and policy frameworks to close the educational gap.

However, as the 2030 deadline approaches, the world faces a critical evaluation. Writers must critically analyze the global landscape: weigh the powerful signs of progress and international efforts against the



deep-seated global barriers, and defend whether meeting this target remains a viable reality or an unachievable milestone.

3. SUBMISSION RULES & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Word Count Parameters: The essay body must be a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1,000 words (this corresponds to approximately 2 dense pages of structural argumentation). Essays falling below 800 words or exceeding 1,000 words will face immediate disqualification.

The Handwriting Mandate: To ensure authentic student participation, promote true personal voice, and completely combat AI-generated cloning, the entire essay must be handwritten by the school's nominated student representative. Typed documents will be rejected automatically.

Scanning & PDF Assembly: Once the handwritten essay is finalized, the supervising teacher must cleanly scan the pages into a single, highly legible PDF file. Please verify the lighting is good and clear before uploading the single file via your school's customized registration portal link.

Single Entry Cap: Each registered junior secondary school is permitted to upload exactly one (1) essay entry. Multiple submissions from the same school will invalidate all profiles involved.

Submission: Upload the PDF via your school's unique portal link on or before **26 June 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

CRITICAL NOTICE ON PLAGIARISM & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

While the essay must be physically handwritten, our grading board utilizes digital parsing tools to audit scripts for the structural signatures of generative AI content. If a script is simply copied line-for-line from ChatGPT or related software by hand, it will fail the integrity baseline and face instant disqualification. Students must write in their own native analytical voice.

4. EVALUATION & GRADING MATRIX

Grading Criteria	Max Points	Detailed Expectations
Argument Quality & Persuasion	30	Clear position defended with logical reasoning. Addresses counterarguments intelligently without relying on unsupported claims.



Research Quality & Factual Support	25	Relevant factual support used appropriately. Some reference to global or local education data, policy, or real-world examples.
Structure & organisation	20	Strong introduction, coherent body paragraphs, and a clear conclusion. Arguments flow logically.
Language, grammar & tone	15	Appropriate vocabulary for the age group. Correct grammar and spelling. Formal academic register maintained throughout.
Technical Compliance	10	800–1,000 words. Neatly handwritten. Clearly scanned. Submitted as a single PDF via the school portal.

5. IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR DEBATE COACHES

- Read this guide carefully and brief your nominated student representative as soon as possible.
- Direct the student to research the topic using the context provided in Section 3. Encourage them to look at real examples, data, and current events related to global education.
- Allow the student to draft, revise, and finalise their essay before writing the final clean copy.
- Ensure the final essay is written neatly in blue or black ballpoint pen on clean, ruled sheets.
- Scan the completed essay using CamScanner or Adobe Scan. Verify all pages are clear and legible. Combine into a single PDF.
- Log in to your school's portal using the link from your confirmation email and upload the PDF before **26 June 2026**.
- Contact the GiftedBrain support desk via the portal if you experience any technical difficulties.

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...harnessing the potential of gifted brains

