

Nigerian Elections Debates Group
2011 Presidential Debate Format & Rules

1. The debate will be moderated by a single panel which shall consist of one moderator and Two Panelists. The single panel shall moderate all the sessions of the debate.
2. Candidates will be paired and scheduled to feature in the Debate.
3. The selection provides for Presidential Candidates to meet with one another on a once and for all basis. To this end, each presidential candidate will feature only once in the Debate.
4. Pairing of presidential Candidates are determined by the strength and representation of political parties for the 2011 House of Representatives Elections as approved by INEC.
5. There will be a Live non-participatory audience.
6. The audience is not allowed to interrupt , applaud or say anything in the course of the Debate.
7. Members of the audience will be drawn from professional associations, civil rights organizations, media, labour, the academia, students, political parties, the organized private sector and the diplomatic corps, women and youths, physically challenged, senior citizens, religious organizations.
8. Each Presidential Candidate featuring on a particular day will be allowed a total of 50 numbers of people consisting of party members, family members and associates who will be part of the non-participatory audience.
9. A Political Party that is not featuring on a particular day will not be allowed any representative in the live audience.
10. The Moderator will open the programme: The two Panelists who will join the Moderator will introduce themselves. The moderator invites the Presidential Candidates and introduces them to the audience.
11. Each of the Presidential Candidates will be allowed three minutes for his/her opening statement.
12. The first Speaker between the debaters will be determined by a toss of the coin off camera.
13. The Moderator announces on camera the method adopted to arrive at the first speaker among the participating Presidential Candidates.

14. The Debaters will answer questions on the broad issues identified for the debate.

15. The questions from the Moderator and/or Panelists will be restricted to the broad areas identified for the Debate.

Areas identified for the Debate are as follows:

- (a) Economy
- (b) Security
- (c) Citizen's welfare
- (d) Education
- (e) Human rights/press freedom
- (f) Electricity generation and distribution
 - Development of alternative sources of energy
 - Modality for uninterrupted domestic consumption of electricity
- (g) Solid minerals development
- (h) Agrarian policy towards self sufficiency or domestic food security
- (i) Agrarian policy in respect of cash crop export
- (j) Blueprint on rural development
- (k) Government's general policy thrust
- (l) Foreign policy
- (m) Perspectives on the rule of law
- (n) Broad transport policy.
 - Road
 - Internal waterways
 - Aviation and railways
- (o) Intergovernmental relations (Separation of powers between Executive, legislature and Judiciary)
- (p) Defence
- (q) Global issues
- (r) Nigeria challenges
- (s) Africa
- (t) Sports
- (u) Entertainment

- (v) Criminal justice system
- (w) Physical challenged people
- (x) Unemployment.
- (y) Corruption
- (z) Environment
- (zi) Industrialization
- (zii) Housing policy

(16) A Debater will be allowed three minutes to answer a question while his opponent(s) will be allowed two minutes of rebuttal.

(17) The Moderator shall ask follow-up questions based on the response given to a question or issues raised in the rebuttal.

(18) There will be no scores recorded for the debate.

(19) Debate will last 90 minutes per session for Presidential Candidates and 1 hour per session for Vice Presidential Candidates.

(20) There will be no breaks in the course of the debate

(21) Profane language and direct attack on opponents will not be allowed in the debate.

(22) Direct attack on the personality of candidate will not be allowed and we will strive to ensure that the highest sense of decorum is maintained by the candidates.

(23) The point must be made within the three minutes period allowed each Candidate to respond to the Moderator's or panel's question.

(24) Three minutes closing statement shall be allowed each of the Debaters.

(25) Candidates must embrace themselves before and after the debate.

(26) The question that will be asked will only be known in the course of the Debate but shall be restricted to the broad areas already forwarded to the debaters.