

Ethics Bowl Judges' Guidelines in Considering Outside Research of Ethics Bowl Teams
(from a handout developed for the 9th Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl of the Association of Professional and Practical Ethics)

1. When a team makes use of factual information based on outside research, the judges should pay special attention to whether the team has presented a clear, well-focused (i.e. not too narrow and not overly broad), and deliberately thoughtful analysis to explain why the team considers the independent factual information it presents in a case as ethically relevant.
2. When a team makes use of factual information based on outside research, the judge should pay special attention to whether the team has identified its sources, and presented reasonable grounds for considering the information worthy of being given significant weight.
3. If a team bases its response to a question on independently obtained information that conflicts with information presented in a case then
4. The judge should consider the team as required to present clear and convincing reasons (beyond a mere preponderance of the evidence) for its reliance upon the conflicting information, and
5. The judge should not, in any case, penalize a team for relying on information provided in the case.
6. If a team makes use of factual information not provided in a case, the volume of such information that the team acquired through research, as reflected in its presentation, should not be considered, in itself, as a factor in favor of the team's presentation.
7. Teams and all event participants should be sensitive to the diversity of opinions and concerns of the SAA and the many constituencies it represents. Teams will be identified by the formal name of their institution, and should be encouraged to conduct themselves as representatives of their school, college or university.