

Showdown Faculty Instructions

What is a Showdown session and how does it work?

This one-hour, interactive session features engaging **point/counterpoint debates** on techniques and/or controversial procedures in orthopaedics. Up to four faculty members debate opposing viewpoints in a **one-on-one or two-on-two format**.

The moderator guides the debate, engages the audience, asks questions, and ensures differing perspectives are presented fairly. Attendees participate throughout the session and use the **Audience Response System (ARS)** to vote on who they believe won the debate(s).

Faculty Limit: 5 total — 1 moderator + up to 4 debating faculty.

Your Role: Debating Faculty.

Session Length: 60 minutes.

Handout: Optional for Showdown sessions.

Your Role as Faculty

As a faculty member, you are responsible for presenting and defending your **assigned viewpoint** while contributing to an engaging, educational, and evidence-based debate.

Your role is to clearly communicate your position, respond thoughtfully to opposing viewpoints, and participate in discussion led by the moderator.

Before the Annual Meeting

- Complete all required faculty forms by the designated deadline.
- Communicate with the moderator to confirm your assigned position, debate format, and time allotment.
- Review the session learning objectives and understand how your position contributes to the overall debate.
- Coordinate with your debate partner, if applicable, to avoid unnecessary overlap and develop a cohesive argument.

- Prepare a clear, focused argument supporting your assigned position.
- Support your position with relevant evidence, clinical experience, and key educational takeaways.
- Anticipate opposing viewpoints and be prepared to respond to questions and counterarguments.
- Review your presentation and planned contributions for balance, bias, and commercialism.
- Pre-submit your audiovisual presentation according to the instructions provided by AAOS.
- If the moderator chooses to provide an optional handout, submit any requested content by the deadline they establish.

Optional Handout

Handouts are **optional** for Showdown sessions.

If the moderator chooses to provide a handout, faculty should provide any requested content by the deadline established for the session.

The **moderator is responsible for reviewing and submitting the final handout to AAOS.**

Faculty handout content should:

- Support the key educational content and takeaways from your position.
- Include relevant references and/or a bibliography when appropriate.
- Clearly support the evidence behind your assigned viewpoint.

Detailed handout requirements and submission instructions will be provided separately.

During Your Session

Faculty participate in an interactive point/counterpoint debate designed to explore differing approaches to controversial topics.

1. Present Your Position

Clearly introduce and support your assigned viewpoint while staying within the time allotted by the moderator.

2. Support Your Argument

Use relevant evidence, clinical experience, and practical considerations to explain the rationale behind your position.

3. Respond to the Opposition

Listen to opposing viewpoints and be prepared to thoughtfully address counterarguments, questions, and areas of disagreement.

4. Engage in the Debate

Participate actively in the point/counterpoint discussion and respond to questions or challenges from the moderator.

5. Engage with the Audience

Be prepared to respond to audience questions and discussion as directed by the moderator.

6. Audience Voting

Attendees will use the **Audience Response System (ARS)** to vote on who they believe won the debate(s).

7. Support the Full Session

Remain for the entire debate and participate throughout the **60-minute session**.

Maintaining Balance & Managing Disclosures

As faculty, your presentation and contributions should remain **fair, educational, evidence-based, and free of commercial bias**.

While Showdown sessions are designed to encourage strong opposing viewpoints, arguments should remain grounded in evidence and professional discussion.

- Avoid promotion of a specific company's product, device, or treatment.
- When discussing products, techniques, or treatment options, acknowledge appropriate alternatives.
- Support your assigned position with relevant evidence when available.
- Distinguish personal clinical experience or opinion from established evidence when appropriate.
- Clearly identify emerging or new content that is not yet supported by established evidence.
- Engage respectfully with opposing viewpoints.

- Be mindful of your disclosed relationships when presenting and participating in the debate.

Faculty disclosures will be displayed at the start of the session and will also be available through AAOS Annual Meeting resources.

Day-of Reminders

- Check in at the **Speaker Ready Room** in sufficient time to review and confirm your presentation.
- Arrive at the session room **30 minutes early** to become familiar with the room and audiovisual setup and connect with the moderator and other debating faculty.
- Review the debate order and timing with the moderator before the session begins.
- Attend the entire **60-minute session**.
- Stay within your assigned presentation and response times.
- Be prepared for follow-up questions and challenges from the moderator and opposing faculty.
- Engage respectfully with opposing viewpoints.
- Participate in audience questions and discussion as directed by the moderator.
- Keep the debate energetic, educational, and evidence-based.

Questions?

For questions regarding your Showdown session, please contact the AAOS Education team.

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