



Showdown Moderator Instructions

What is a Showdown 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.

Session Length: 60 minutes.

Handout: Optional for Showdown sessions.

Your Role as Moderator

As moderator, you play an active role in creating a **lively, balanced, and engaging debate** while keeping the session organized and on schedule.

Before the Annual Meeting

- Communicate with your faculty and ensure everyone understands the Showdown format, assigned position, and time allotment.
- Clearly establish the opposing viewpoints for each debate.
- Coordinate faculty topics to minimize overlap and ensure both sides of the debate are represented.
- Develop a session outline that includes debate timing, moderator questions, audience participation, and ARS voting.
- Prepare questions and discussion prompts in advance to keep the debate moving and encourage meaningful discussion.
- Review session content for balance, bias, and commercialism.

- Ensure faculty presentations support the session learning objectives and incorporate evidence-based information.
- If providing an optional handout, coordinate, review, and submit the materials by the designated deadline.

Optional Handout

Handouts are **optional** for Showdown sessions.

If your faculty choose to provide a handout, the moderator is responsible for coordinating and reviewing the materials before submission.

The handout should:

- Support the key educational content and takeaways from the debate.
- Represent opposing viewpoints fairly.
- Include relevant references and/or a bibliography when appropriate.

Detailed **handout requirements, formatting guidelines, review criteria, submission instructions, and deadlines** will be provided separately.

During Your Session

The moderator leads the overall debate and helps create an energetic, interactive experience for faculty and attendees.

1. Introduce the Showdown

Welcome attendees, introduce the topic and faculty, and briefly explain the debate format and audience voting.

2. Present the Debate

Introduce the opposing viewpoints and give each faculty member or team an opportunity to present their position.

3. Challenge the Faculty

Ask prepared and follow-up questions that encourage faculty to defend their positions, address opposing arguments, and explore areas of controversy.

4. Engage the Audience

Encourage audience questions and participation throughout the session. Use the ARS as planned to involve attendees in the debate.

5. Conduct Audience Voting

Allow attendees to vote using the **Audience Response System (ARS)** to determine who they believe won the debate(s).

6. Close the Session

Review key educational takeaways and conclude within the allotted **60 minutes**.

Maintaining Balance & Managing Disclosures

As moderator, you are responsible for helping ensure the session remains **fair, balanced, evidence-based, and free of commercial bias**.

Because Showdown sessions are intentionally designed around opposing viewpoints, the moderator should remain neutral and ensure all sides have a fair opportunity to present and defend their positions.

- Be alert to bias or commercialism from both faculty and participants.
- Avoid promotion of a specific company's product, device, or treatment.
- When discussing products, techniques, or treatment options, encourage balanced consideration of available alternatives.
- Ensure opposing viewpoints receive appropriate and equitable discussion.
- Clearly identify emerging or new content that is not yet supported by established evidence.
- Address potential conflicts or bias during the debate when necessary.

Faculty disclosures will be displayed at the start of the session. If a disclosure does not display properly, direct attendees to the disclosure information available through AAOS Annual Meeting resources.

Day-of Reminders

- Arrive early and confirm all debating faculty are present and prepared.
- Review the debate order, timing, and format with faculty before the session begins.
- Confirm the planned **ARS questions/voting** are ready for audience participation.
- Keep each side of the debate within its assigned time.
- Remain neutral and ensure opposing viewpoints are represented fairly.
- Use prepared questions to keep the discussion moving.

- Encourage audience participation and interaction.
- Allow adequate time for ARS voting and discussion of the results.
- Keep the debate energetic, educational, and focused on the session objectives.
- Ensure the session concludes within the allotted **60 minutes**.

Questions?

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

Taylor Scott

Education Coordinator

tscott@aaos.org

(847) 384-4244

April Holmes

Director, Live Events Education

holmes@aaos.org

(847) 384-4189