**MMI Sample Response - DEBATE**

**QUESTION (prompt shown on screen before actors begin)**

Are the Olympics a waste of money? Defend your position to the other candidate.

Candidate 1: You disagree that the Olympics are a waste of money.

Candidate 2: You agree that the Olympics are a waste of money.

We will stop you before the end of the session, and ask you to provide feedback to each other.

**STUDENT 1**

I think it would be great if I could mention a few points to support my argument, and then I’ll give you a chance to respond. That way we can each take some time, and take turns back and forth with our arguments. What do you think?

**STUDENT 2**

That sounds great. I’ll wait for your first point, and then respond.

**STUDENT 1**

I do not think that the Olympics are a waste of money for a few reasons. The first reason is that the Olympics bring tourists to the city in which they are held. These tourists are bringing business to hotels, restaurants, and local businesses, as well as buying an expensive ticket to the Olympic Games. Tourists will also spend money on Olympic merchandise. If the tourists enjoy the city where the Olympics are held they may go back to the city later on.

Money is spent on making the city look nicer, which is good for the city in general.

**STUDENT 2**

OK, I can see how the Olympics plans to make money, but I still think that the Olympics are a waste of money for a few reasons. I would like to first, comment on the subject of tourists, and why tourism may not be as positive an aspect you may think. The host country raises prices when the tourists come, in order to compensate for the financial expenses. Although they may make more money from the tourists, citizens of the host city will experience a financial burden during this time.

Tourist traffic may be great for some businesses, but it also creates more pollution, traffic congestion, longer wait times, and possibly shortages of essential goods and services.

The amount of money that the host city spends on the new buildings and all of the production costs may not equal the amount of money brought in from ticket sales, hotels, merchandise, or local business revenue.

Although some buildings are used after the Olympics, many are left abandoned and never used again, which is a waste of space, resources, and money.

Money is often reallocated to the Olympics from the actual needs of the city, for example, helping the homeless population.

The Olympics are extremely unpredictable economically. Each host city handles the finances differently and is in a different financial situation. Host cities are selected years in advance, and the host city cannot predict what kind of economic situation they will be in when the games roll around.

**STUDENT 1**

OK, but there is a lot of pride and patriotism tied to the Olympics, it’s not just competing, but in hosting as well. Holding the Olympics is an honour and is a process of about 7-10 years for the host city, which includes the time preparing for the proposal. All of the work that goes into planning and executing the Olympics creates jobs for the host city, athletes, coaches and other professionals in the field. The people in the host city who prepare for the Olympics are an example of the Olympics creating jobs. I would argue that the host city has a lot of time to properly estimate costs and come up with an effective budget and a way to implement this. The Olympics is not a capitalist event, the point of the Olympics is not to make money. No city goes into hosting thinking that they will be turning a profit.

The Olympics are more centered on pride and sportsmanship. The Olympics provides so many people with amazing opportunities that would not exist otherwise.

Athletes and their families are provided with a chance to travel that they might not have had if there were no Olympics.

Athletes and spectators are given the opportunity to explore new cultures and meet people from all over the world.

The Olympics have a positive impact on youth who may be motivated by Olympic athletes to get involved in a sport or activity.

As for the buildings, some are used after as recreation centers after the Olympics are over.

**STUDENT 2**

Ok. But the games have historically put many cities into debt from hosting the Olympic Games, and the cities who are not in debt did not make a huge amount of profit from the games, and all cities have abandoned buildings and increased pollution during the time leading up to the games and the time when the games actually take place. Before the Olympics take place there is an increase in municipal spending to make the city look nicer. This extra spending does create more short-term jobs, but these jobs are not sustainable and only last for a short period of time. The city spends money on the construction of buildings, cleaning up of surrounding areas, and preparing for the increase of tourism. During the Olympic Games prices rise for the surrounding areas for the tourists as well as residents of the area who may not be able to afford the skyrocket prices. After the Olympics are over, the city is most likely left with debt and now has to figure out what to do with all of the unnecessary buildings and tracks they have created.

**INTERVIEWER VOICE:**

Ok –Let’s stop now. I want you to evaluate yourselves and each other.

**STUDENT 1:** I felt like that was a great conversation. I brought up both economic and social points of view, and you had great comebacks as to why there may be reasons to doubt my perspective. It would have been great if you had been able to bring up other perspectives instead of trying to counter each of my points, even though I went first with my arguments.

**STUDENT 2:**

I thought we listened well to each other and were respectful enough not to interrupt each other’s thoughts. We were really constructive with our opinions and were able to bring up new facts that supported our own opinions without attacking each other.