Some people will go a long way to find a place for an argument

THEY travelled from all corners of the globe just to have an argument. Students from 14 countries including India, Israel, US, South Africa, Lithuania, Hong Kong and Germany are in Brisbane to compete in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships.

Despite many of them having English as a second language, they must all debate in English. Indian student Vikram Kejriwal travelled nearly 26 hours from Dehradun, 230km north of Delhi to compete. "I really got attracted to public speaking and debating at my school so I’m glad I could come here," he said. "And I’ve loved Brisbane, it’s a lot cooler here than India is at the moment, the people are really friendly and nice."

The competition at Moreton Bay Boys’ College includes interpretative reading, debate, and after-dinner speaking. Principal Dr Rod Crouch said it’s the first time the event has been held in Australia. "We believe in international mindedness and how we can encourage children to see themselves as part of a wider world," he said.

The event runs until Thursday.

Sophie Elsworth

TALKING HEADS: Sejal Jamnacals of Australia, Sam Bell of Australia, Siphiwe Mahanjana of South Africa, Thomas Diment of the UK, Ana Gabriele Sabanlevait of Lithuania and Vikram Kejriwal of India.

Picture: Glenn Barnes