



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 Kejariwal 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 mindness 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 Jamnaclaus of Australia, Sam Bell of Australia, Siphesihle Mahanjana of South Africa, Thomas Diment of the UK, Ana Gabriele Sabanleivaite of Lithuania and Vikram Kejariwal of India.

Picture: Glenn Barnes