



Try-out Debate

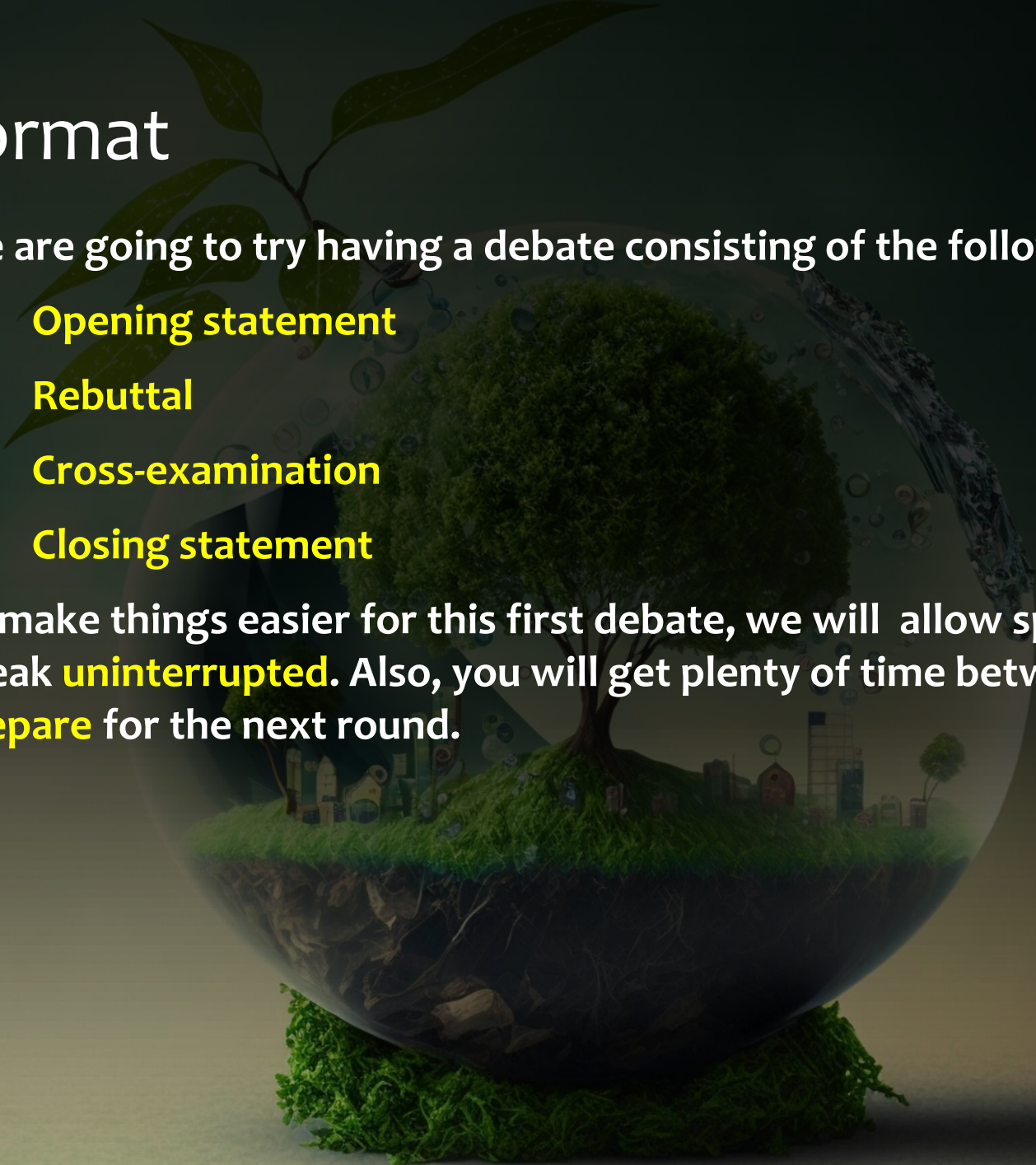
Try out a debate with your classmates.

Format

We are going to try having a debate consisting of the following parts:

1. Opening statement
2. Rebuttal
3. Cross-examination
4. Closing statement

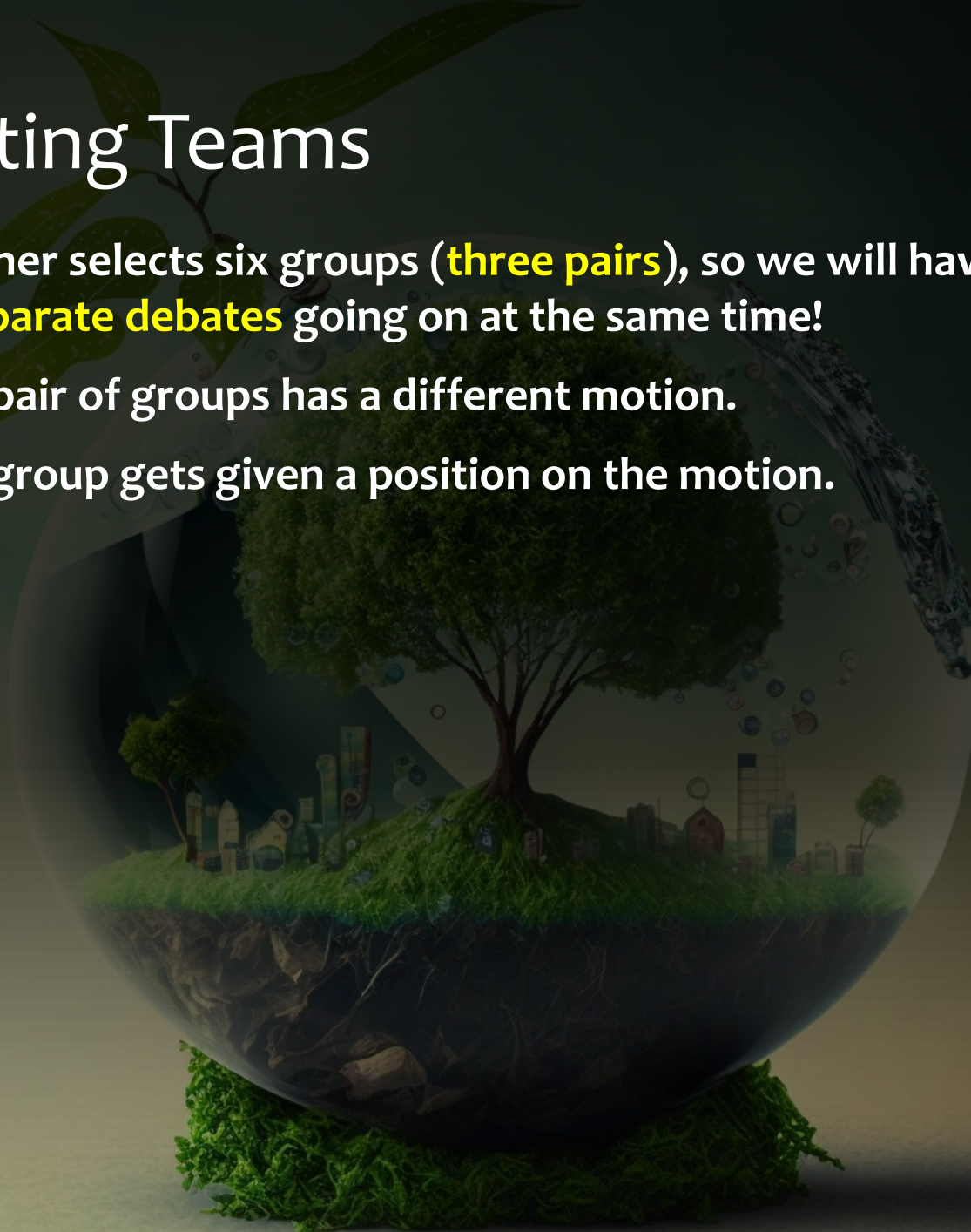
To make things easier for this first debate, we will allow speakers to speak **uninterrupted**. Also, you will get plenty of time between rounds to **prepare** for the next round.



Debating Teams

The teacher selects six groups (**three pairs**), so we will have **three separate debates** going on at the same time!

- Each pair of groups has a different motion.
- Each group gets given a position on the motion.



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Motion A (Group 1: In favour; Group 2: Against)

Protecting the environment is more important than the economy.

Motion B (Group 3: In favour; Group 4: Against)

It's okay to build hotels in a nature reserve (自然保护区) if it creates jobs for the local people.

Motion C (Group 5: In favour; Group 6: Against)

A family should be limited to having only one car.

Debating Teams

Each group has 4 or 5 members.

Discuss the **role of each team member** (between yourselves). You need to assign the following roles:

- 1 team member presents the **OPENING STATEMENT**.
- 1 team member presents the **REBUTTAL STATEMENT**.
- 1 or 2 team members **ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS** to/from the other team (groups of 4 assign one member, groups of 5 assign 2 members).
- 1 team member present the **CLOSING STATEMENT** summarizing what was said over the course of the debate.

Opening statement

Prepare your opening statement.

Time limit **3 minutes**.

If your statement is too long,
you will be stopped.

The opening statement is similar to a persuasive speech, but try to make your claims difficult to attack.

Method:

1. Analyze the motion and your position.
2. Choose an emotion.
3. Find claims that support your position or undermine the opponent's position that evoke that emotion.
4. Find evidence for your claims.
5. Develop an argument for your claim in terms of logic and come to an emotional conclusion.

Motion A (Team 1+ Team 2-)

Protecting the environment is more important than the economy.

Motion B (Team 3+ Team 4-)

It's okay to build hotels in a nature reserve (自然保护区) if it creates jobs for the local people.

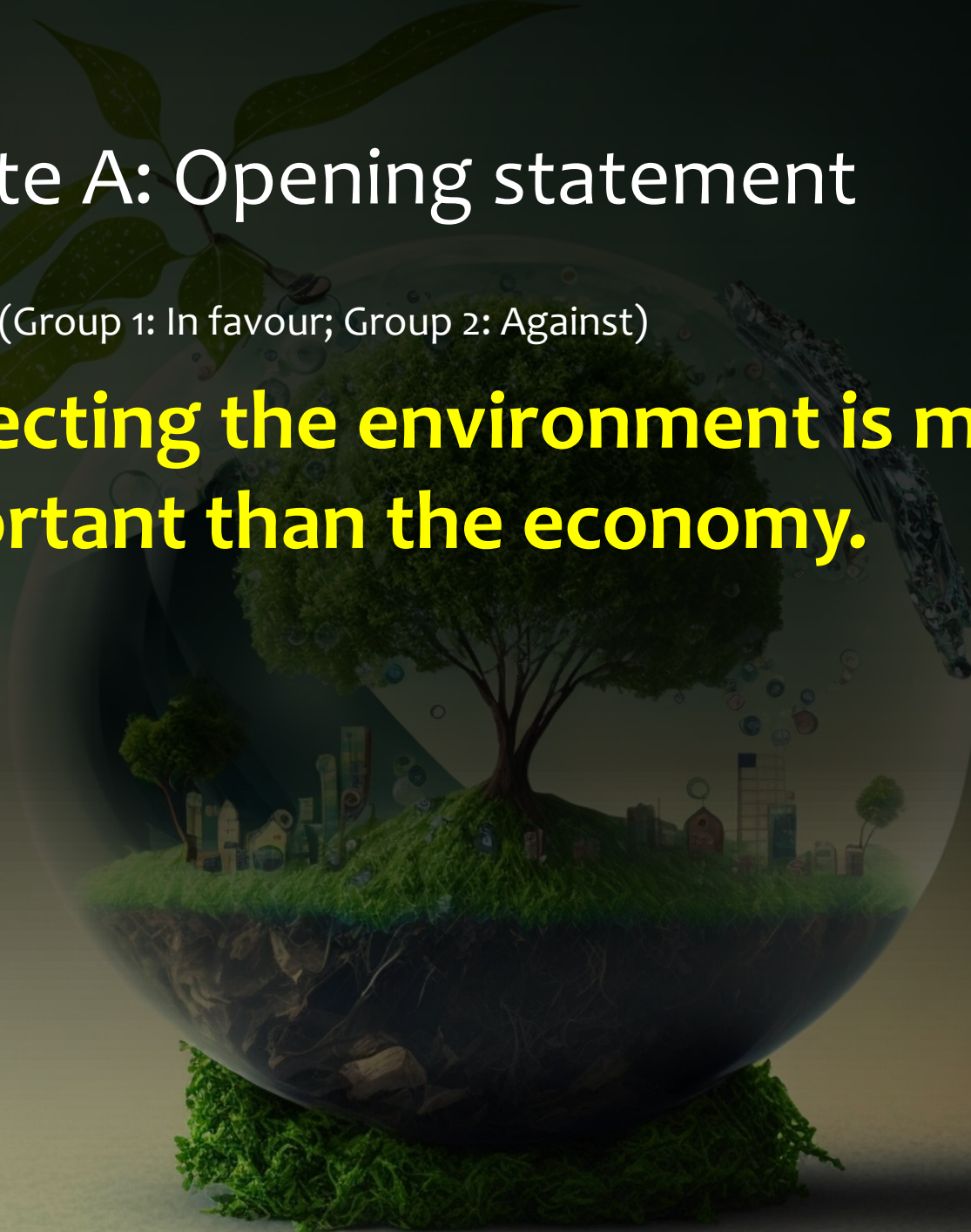
Motion C (Team 5+ Team 6-)

A family should be limited to having only one car.

Debate A: Opening statement

Motion A (Group 1: In favour; Group 2: Against)

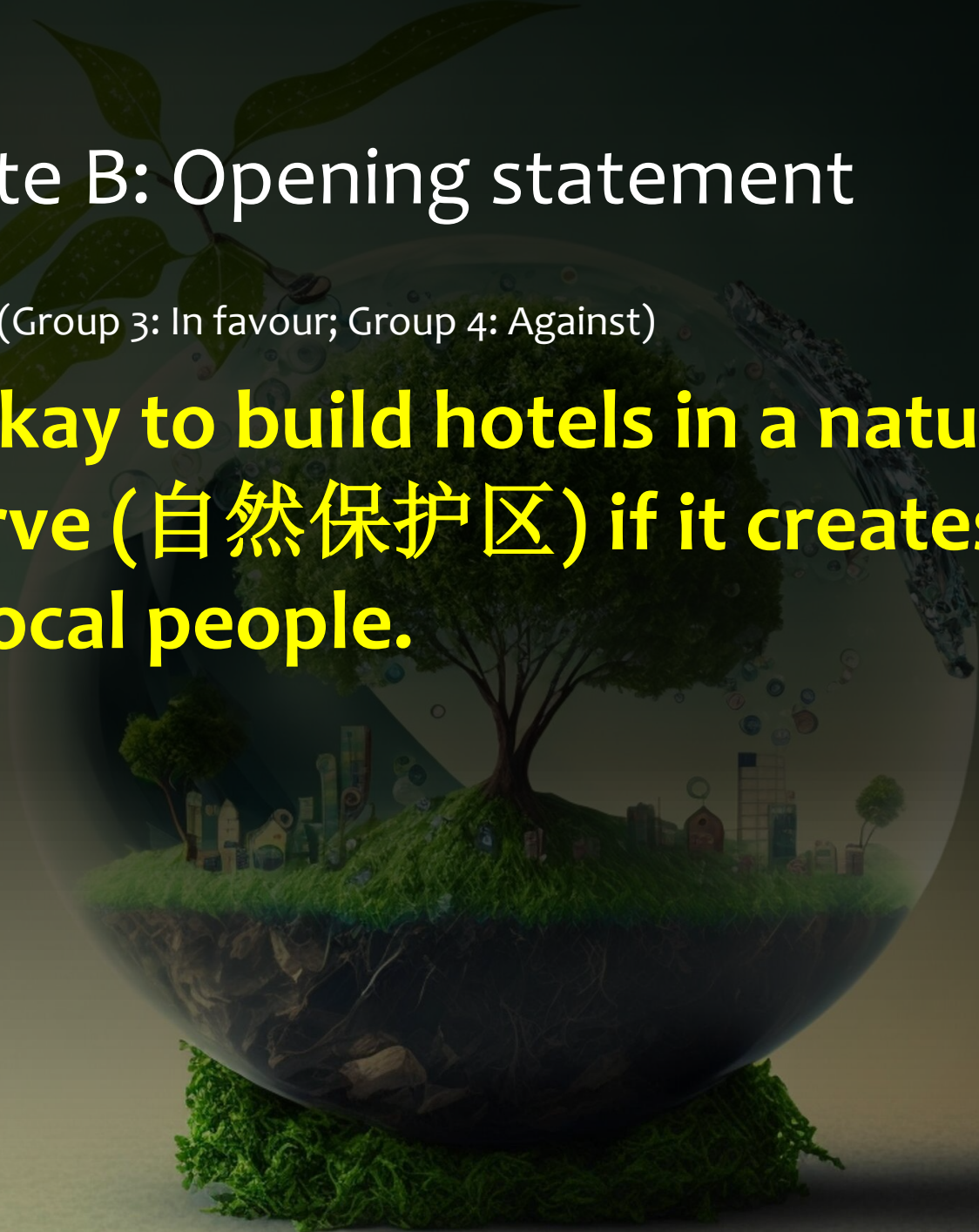
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Debate B: Opening statement

Motion B (Group 3: In favour; Group 4: Against)

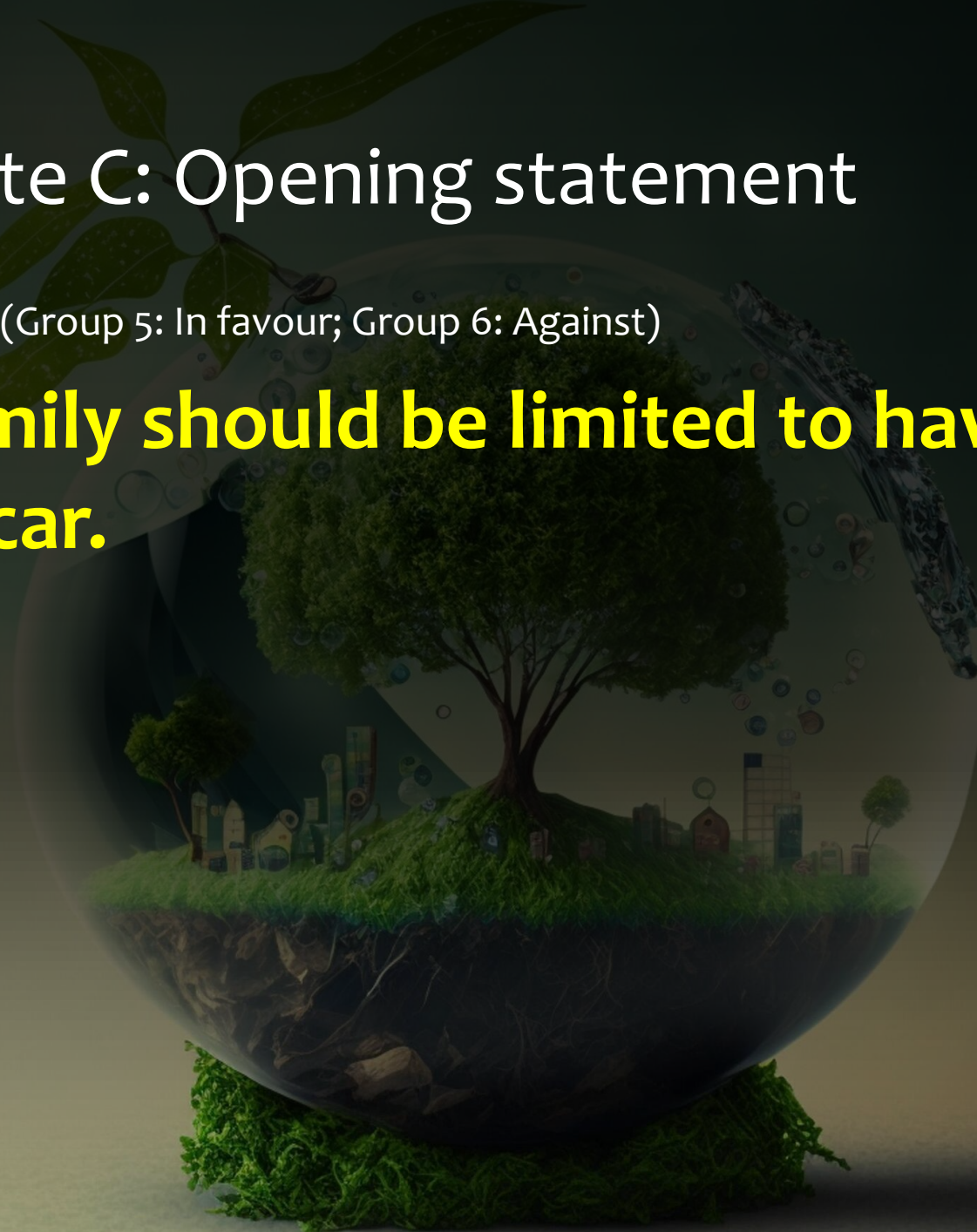
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Debate C: Opening statement

Motion C (Group 5: In favour; Group 6: Against)

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Rebuttal

Prepare your rebuttal.

Time limit : **3 minutes.**

If too long, you will be stopped.

The rebuttal statement aims to destroy your opponent's claims.

Method:

1. Using your notes, go through each claim made by your opponent, and rebut it by finding problems in the evidence or logic, or by providing an equally valid counter-claim.
2. For each problem you find:
 1. Explain what the problem is.
 2. Launch an attack by showing how it destroys the opponent's position.
 3. If possible, provide a 'fix' that supports your position.

Motion A (Team 1+ Team 2-)

Protecting the environment is more important than the economy.

Motion B (Team 3+ Team 4-)

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Motion C (Team 5+ Team 6-)

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Debate A: Rebuttal

Motion A (Group 1: In favour; Group 2: Against)

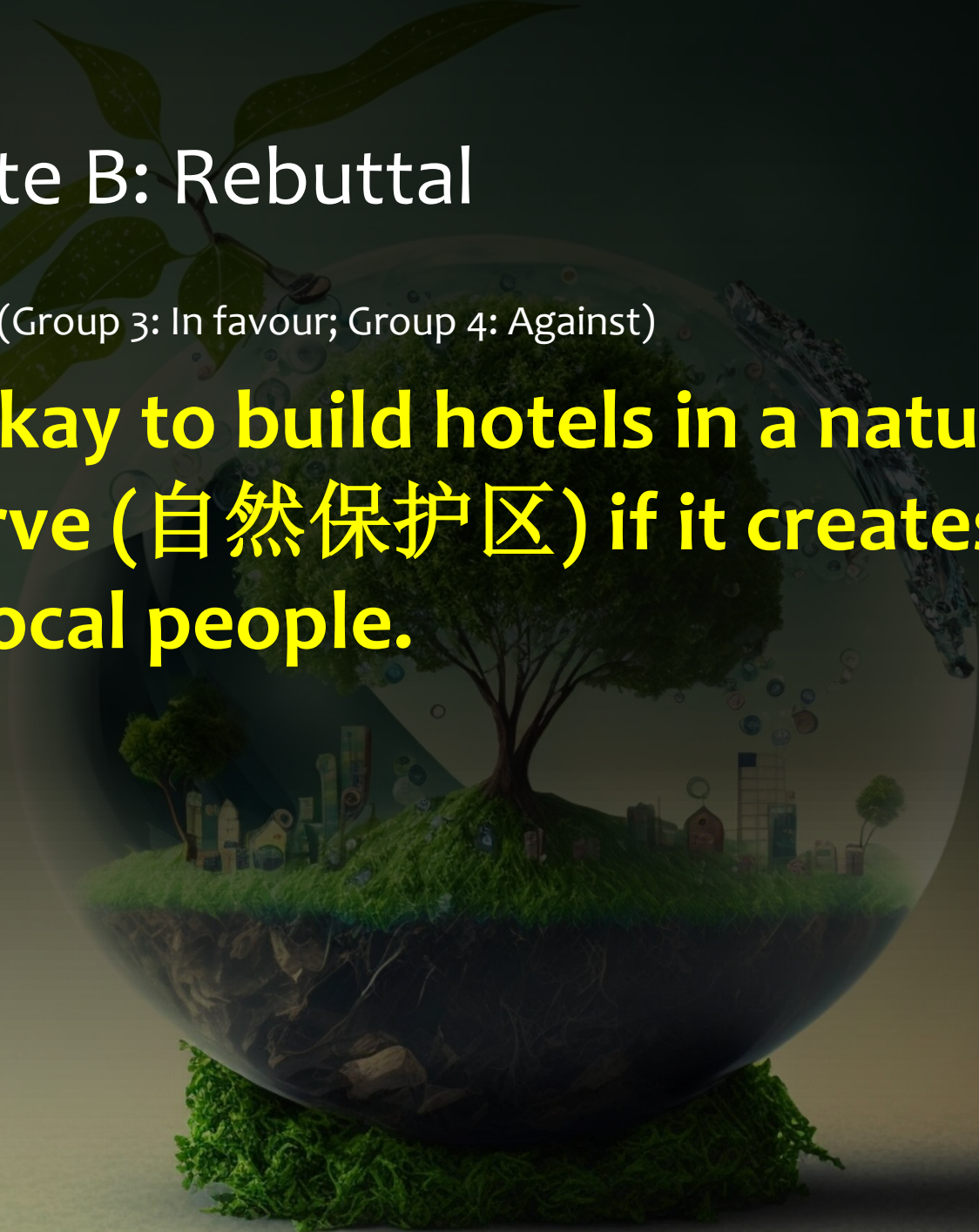
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Debate B: Rebuttal

Motion B (Group 3: In favour; Group 4: Against)

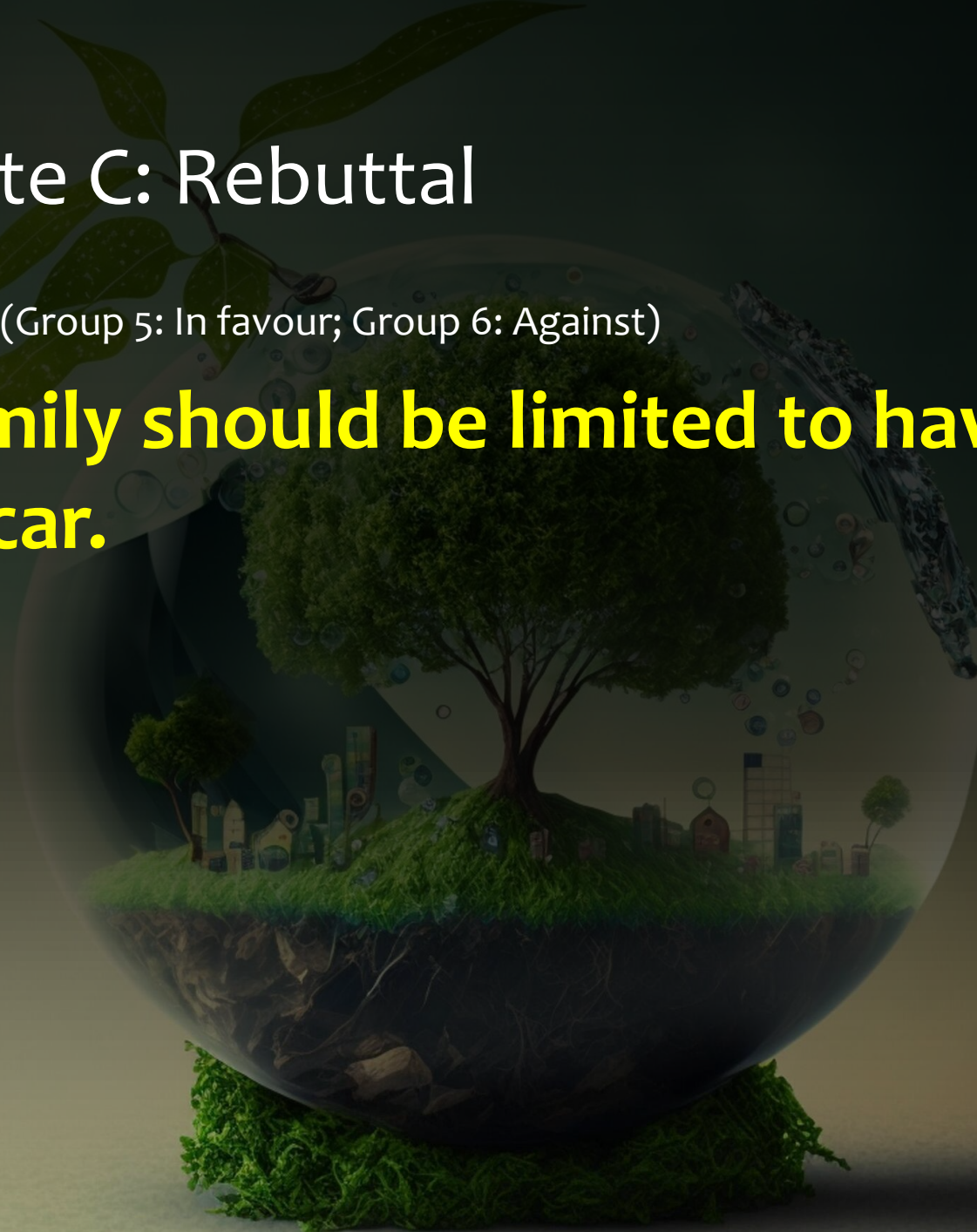
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Debate C: Rebuttal

Motion C (Group 5: In favour; Group 6: Against)

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Cross-examination

Prepare your questions.

No time limit.

The questions should attack your opponent's claims.

Method:

1. Using your notes, go through each claim made by your opponent, and try to find places where your opponent is of their depth, uses questionable logic or takes their arguments too far.
2. For each problem you find, ask a question that attacks their reasoning, usually ending with "can you explain?"

Motion A (Team 1+ Team 2-)

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Motion B (Team 3+ Team 4-)

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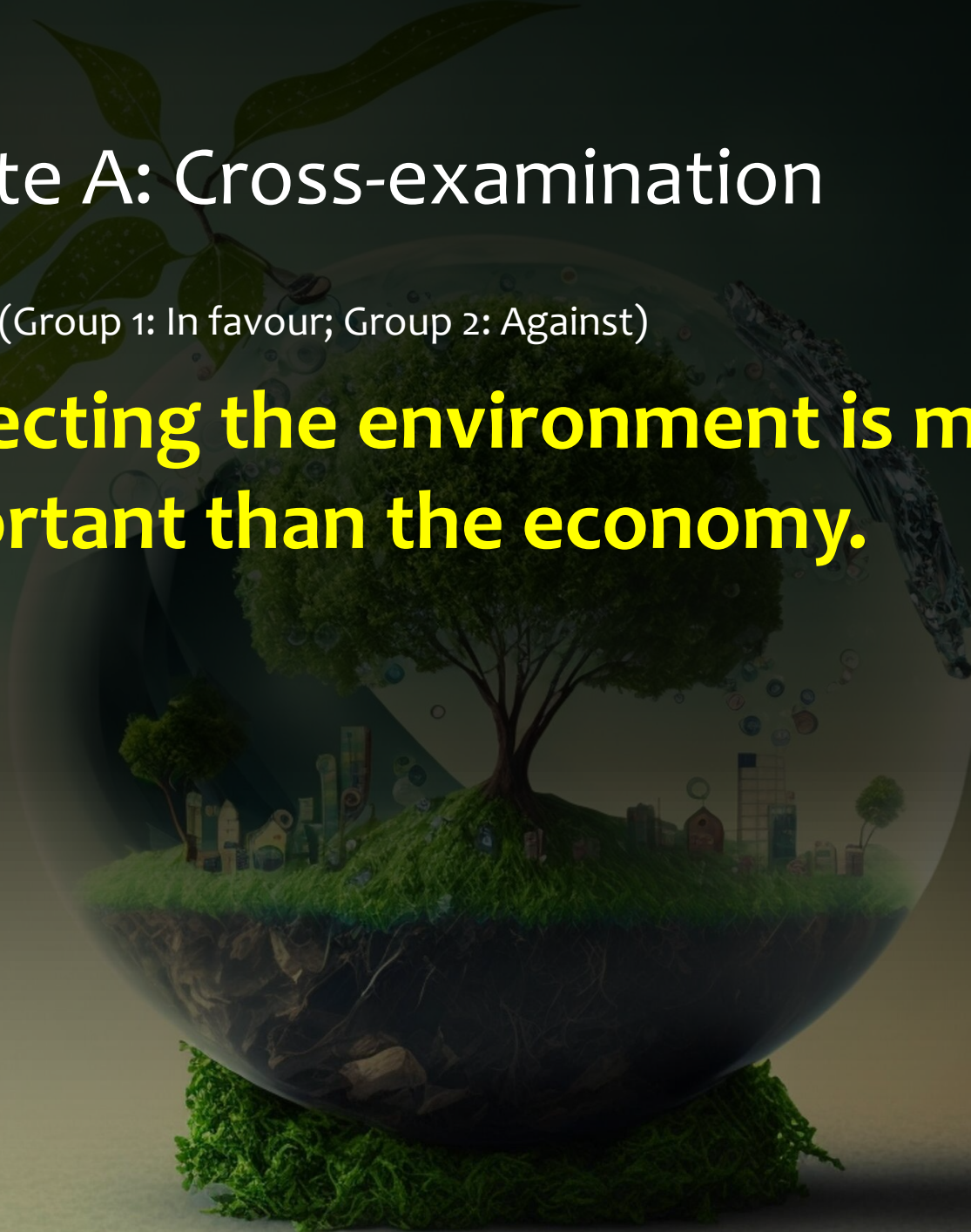
Motion C (Team 5+ Team 6-)

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Debate A: Cross-examination

Motion A (Group 1: In favour; Group 2: Against)

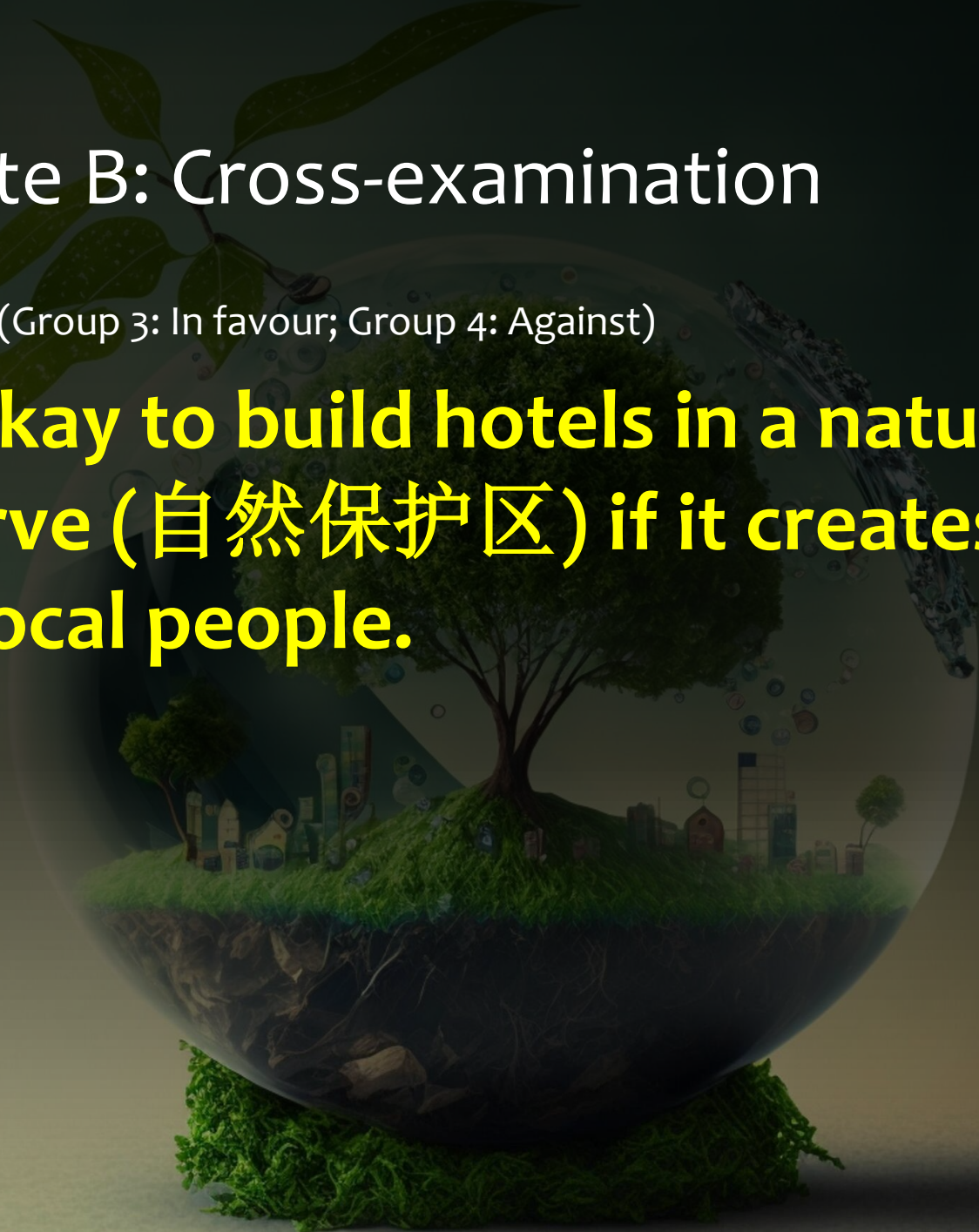
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Debate B: Cross-examination

Motion B (Group 3: In favour; Group 4: Against)

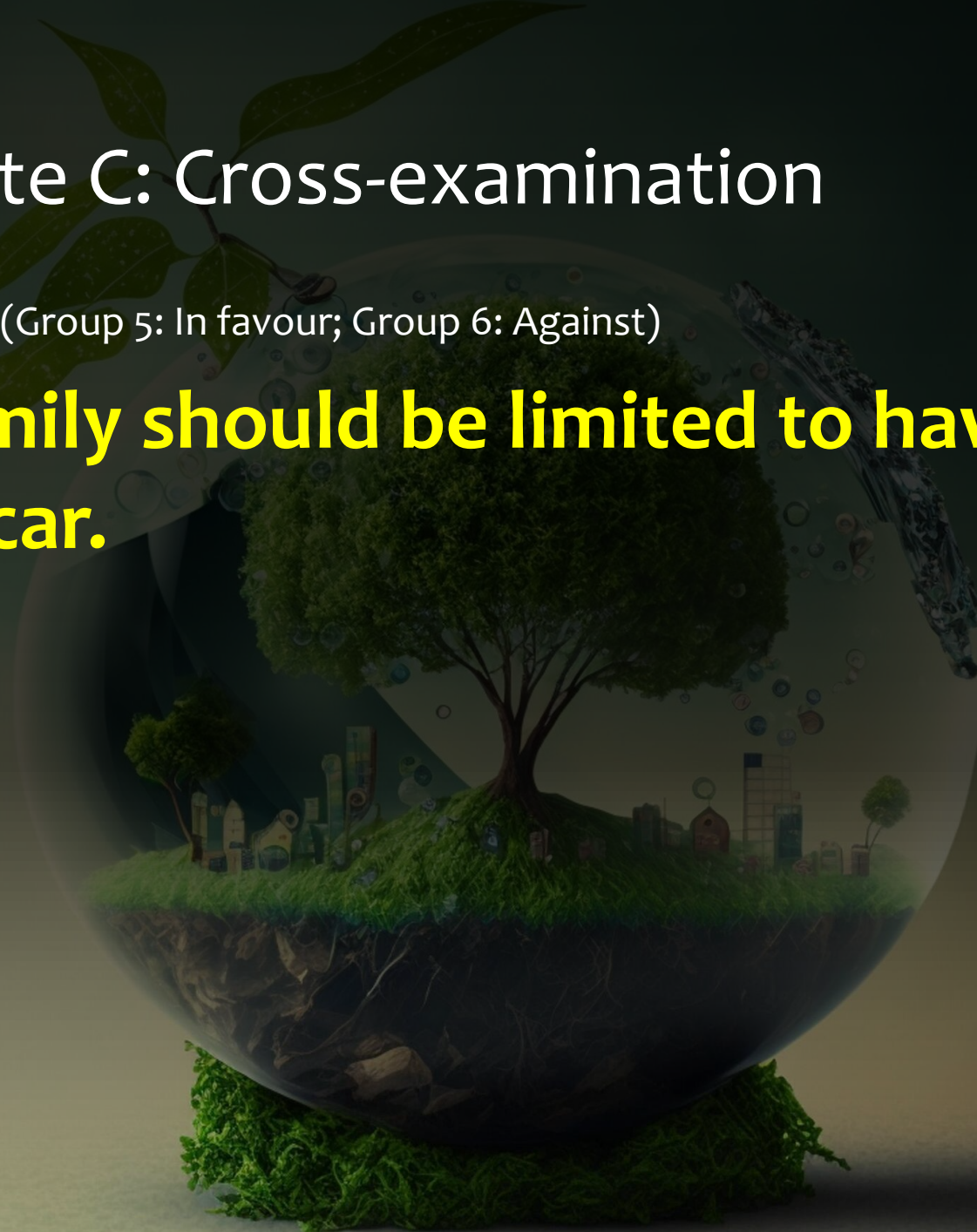
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Debate C: Cross-examination

Motion C (Group 5: In favour; Group 6: Against)

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Closing statement

Prepare your closing statement.

Time limit **3 minutes**.

If your statement is too long,
you will be stopped.

The closing statement is a summary
of the debate.

Method:

1. Summarize the points your team made in your opening statement, rebuttal and cross-examination, and explain how they support your position.
2. Summarize the points your opponent made in their opening statement, rebuttal and cross-examination, and explain why they are wrong. Then propose a fix that supports your position.
3. Present an overall conclusion that reiterates why your position fits into the big picture and why your opponent's doesn't. Make sure the message ends on a high note and drips with emotion.

Motion A (Team 1+ Team 2-)

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important than the economy.

Motion B (Team 3+ Team 4-)

It's okay to build hotels in a nature
reserve (自然保护区) if it creates jobs
for the local people.

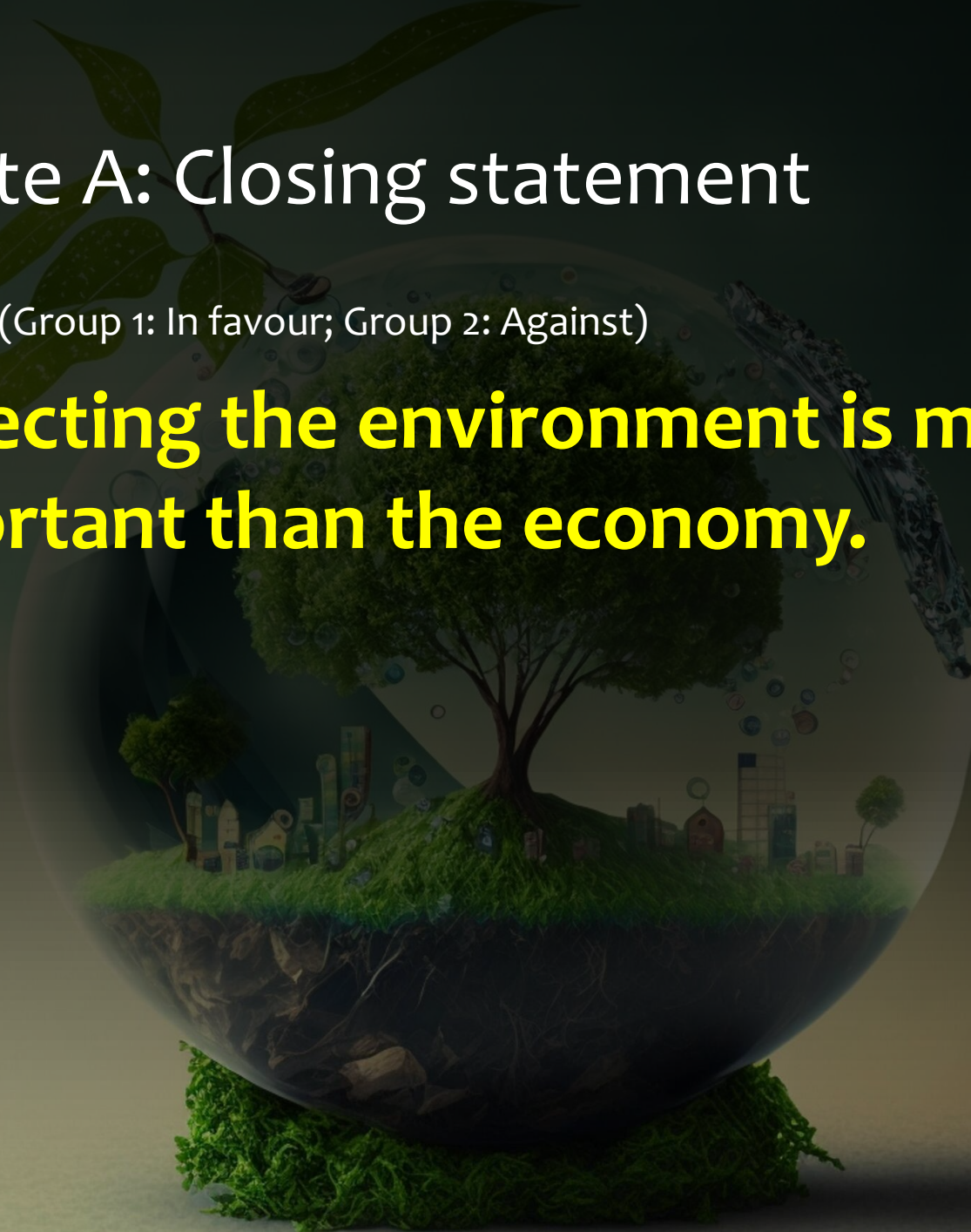
Motion C (Team 5+ Team 6-)

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Debate A: Closing statement

Motion A (Group 1: In favour; Group 2: Against)

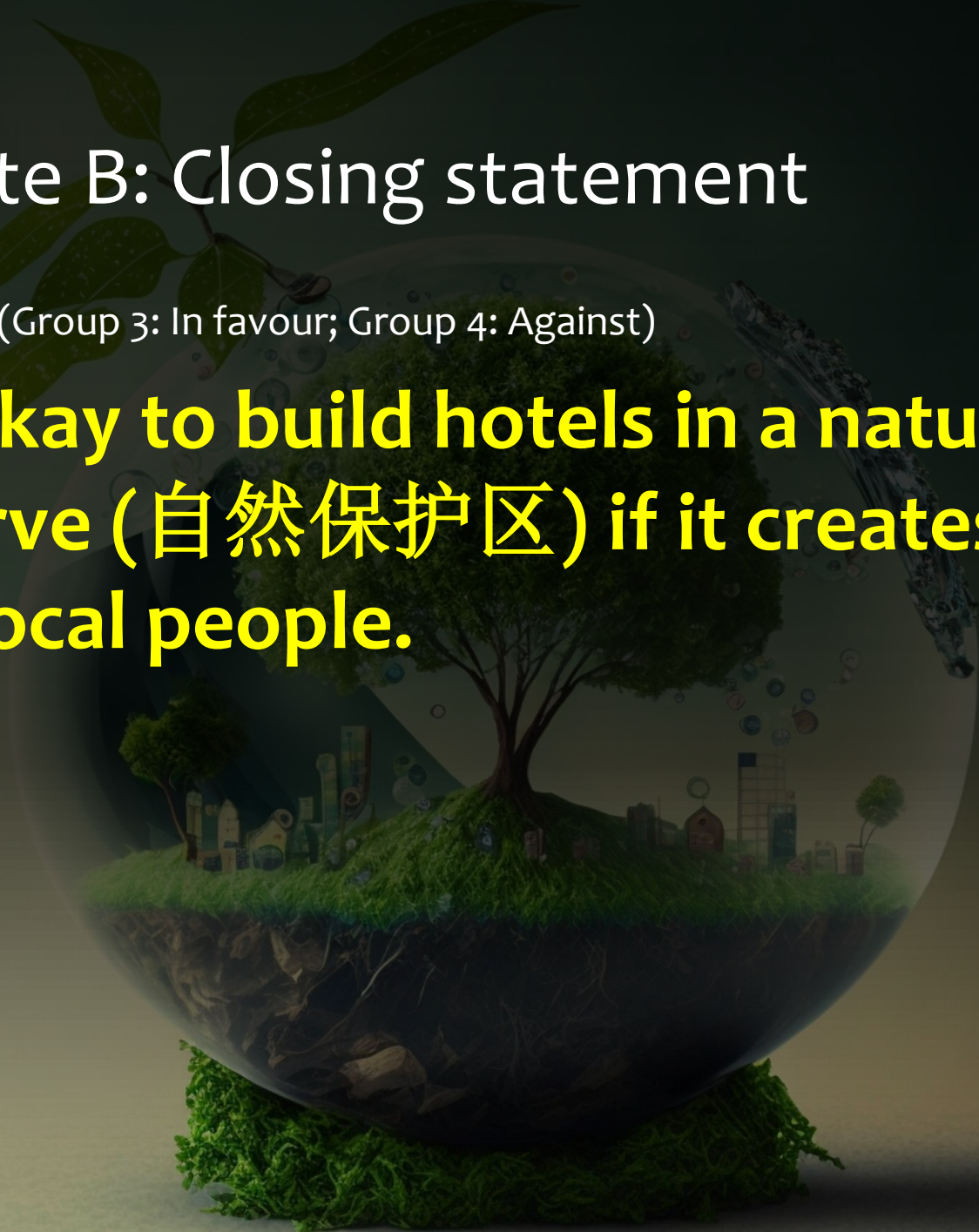
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Debate B: Closing statement

Motion B (Group 3: In favour; Group 4: Against)

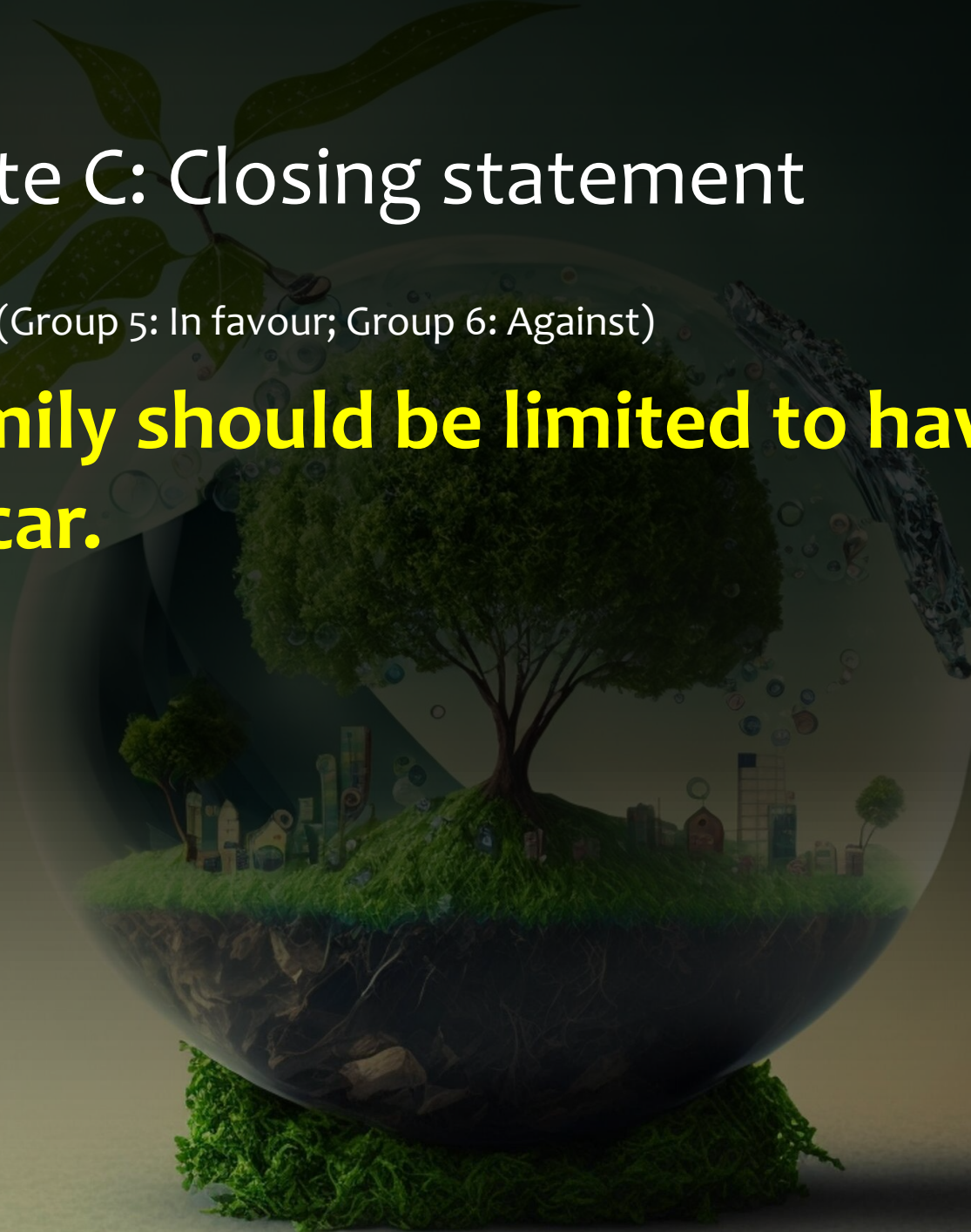
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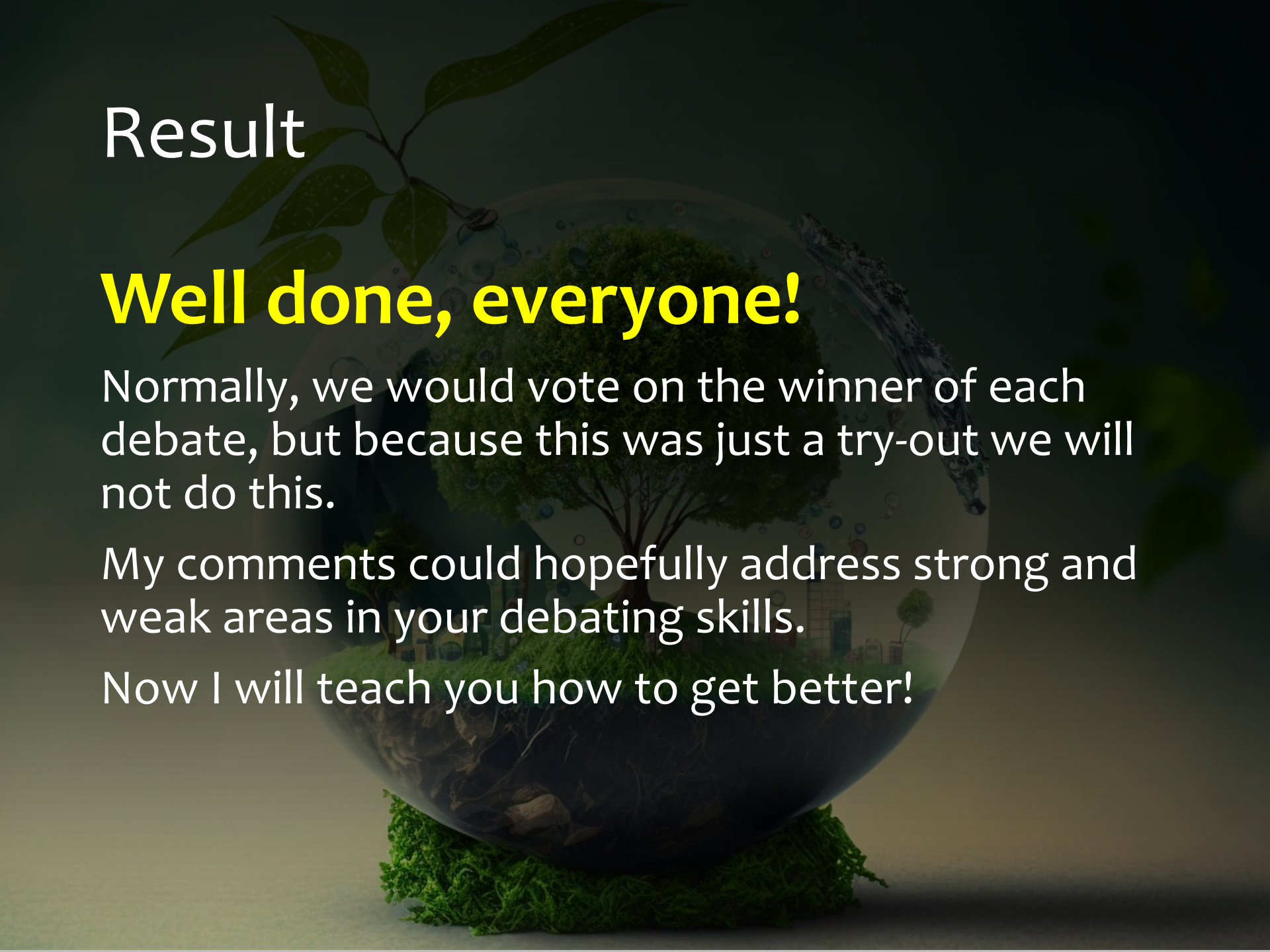


Debate C: Closing statement

Motion C (Group 5: In favour; Group 6: Against)

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Result

Well done, everyone!

Normally, we would vote on the winner of each debate, but because this was just a try-out we will not do this.

My comments could hopefully address strong and weak areas in your debating skills.

Now I will teach you how to get better!