



# OOTP

The Order of the Phoenix

**Topic:** Promoting equal and equitable opportunities in face of the discrimination in the wizarding world against half-bloods and muggle-borns



**Committee:** The Order of the Phoenix (OOTP)

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## **I. Committee Background**

The Order of the Phoenix is a secret organization founded by Albus Dumbledore in response to the growing threat posed by Lord Voldemort and his followers, the Death Eaters, during both the First and Second Wizarding Wars. The Order was formed to oppose Voldemort's oppressive and violent agenda, which included not only the conquest of the wizarding world but also the subjugation and persecution of anyone he deemed inferior. This group, known for their bravery and commitment to justice, dedicated itself to defending those marginalized by Voldemort's ideology of blood purity, particularly half-bloods, Muggle-borns, and non-human creatures such as house elves and centaurs.

The Order of the Phoenix was instrumental in the First Wizarding War as a counterforce to these prejudiced ideologies. Members of the Order, such as Sirius Black, and Remus Lupin, are diverse in terms of background and demonstrate the group's commitment to inclusivity and equality. Unlike the Death Eaters, whose membership was largely restricted to pure-blood wizards, the Order of the Phoenix was open to anyone willing to fight for a just and equitable wizarding society.

The Order of the Phoenix has always stood as a symbol of resistance against systemic inequality and oppression. Unlike many formal institutions in the wizarding world, such as the Ministry of Magic, which at times became infiltrated by corrupt individuals or harmful ideologies, the Order has remained



uncompromising in its fight for fairness and the protection of all magical beings, regardless of their blood status.

Note: For this committee, discussions, solutions, and references should be based strictly on information from the first four books (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone through Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix) and their corresponding films. Delegates are encouraged not to use knowledge or events from later books or movies as they are outside the scope of this session.

## **II. Topic Information**

In the Harry Potter universe, wizards and witches are categorized based on their magical lineage, these classifications, such as 'Purebloods' and 'Half-bloods' and 'Muggle-born' reflect beliefs about the perceived quality of bloodlines impact social dynamics in the wizarding world, this is mostly impacted especially by influential families and/or groups, understanding these topics is crucial to understand Voldemort's rise and his influence on the wizarding world.

### **Half-Bloods**

Witches and wizards with mixes of magical and Muggle ancestors are called half-bloods. Usually, they have a Muggle and magical relatives. By the 1990s, they had the most common blood status in the magical community due to wizarding families marrying Muggles, this marriage was often a necessity as the limitation of pure blood families meant they had to inbreed, risking families to genetic problems.

Within the magical community, mainly among pure-blood supremacists, half-blood supremacists were often discriminated against for having lower status. Some families, like the Malfoys and Blacks, considered themselves superior to half-bloods or Muggle-borns, they believed they were 'tainted' by Muggle blood yet still considered superior to Muggle-borns.



## Muggle-borns

Muggle-borns are those witches and wizards born with no magical parent, despite this, they possess the same magical abilities as any other witch or wizard. This often happens due to having a magical lineage in the family. These witches and wizards often have a distant magical ancestor or a squib (A non-magical person born to at least one magical parent). This results in a Muggle-born child born to a non/magical family.

Some of the most famous Muggle-borns are Lily Evans and Hermione Granger, whose intelligence, magical powers, and overall talent often surpassed those with pure blood. These examples prove that magical ability isn't determined by the witches or wizards bloodline but by their talent and dedication.

The term mudblood is used as an insult towards Muggle-born witches and wizards, reflecting discriminatory beliefs against them, this led to the formation of groups like the death eaters, who attempted to eradicate Muggle-born.

During Voldemort's first rise to power, these groups were targeted, His reign possessed policies to persecute them. He accused them of stealing magic from pure blood.

To summarize, the terms half-blood and Muggle-born carry deep meaning in the wizarding world as they pronounce the prejudices associated with bloodlines, shaping witches' and wizards' thoughts and ideas on the topic, resulting in discrimination.

### **a. History of the Topic**

#### A History of Discrimination in the Wizarding World

For the wizarding world, it all comes down to blood – with pure-blood wizards and witches seen as above everyone else. It has oppressed half-bloods and Muggle-born, who are usually seen as lower-level citizens. Unfair



laws and practices have been enacted due to institutional discrimination, which involves the exclusion of society or workplace prejudice. Half-blood wizards can sometimes straddle the middle of the social hierarchy.

#### The Role of the Order of the Phoenix

The committee's mission extends beyond simply defeating Voldemort; it seeks to challenge and dismantle the systems that enable discrimination to flourish. In the context of this topic, the Order of the Phoenix can be viewed as a forerunner of modern efforts to promote equal opportunities for all magical beings. The Order's resistance to Voldemort's regime symbolized a broader resistance to the entrenched inequalities of the wizarding world, a fight that remains relevant even after Voldemort's defeat.

On characters like Hermione Granger, Harry Potter, and their peers. The series makes it very clear that blood status is completely irrelevant to the merits of a person.

#### Voldemort and the Ideology of Blood Purity

Voldemort's original name was Tom Riddle and was a half-blood, he hid this fact as he despised anything associated with the Muggle world, and he blamed Muggle-borns and half-bloods for the wizarding world's misfortunes. He used the ideologies of blood purity to manipulate older pureblood families who thought their status was threatened by the increasing numbers of Muggle-borns and half-bloods.

#### Conclusion

Despite the strong prejudice against Muggle-borns and half-breeds, some of the show's most talented, brave, and important characters come from these backgrounds. The character of Hermione Granger is one of the strongest examples. Miriam is a Muggle-born witch whose magical abilities and academic abilities have always been superior to her peers. Her dedication to learning and resourcefulness played a key role in her friends' survival and eventual defeat of Voldemort. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, we





see her extraordinary wisdom as she helps Harry and Ron escape the traps guarding the Philosopher's Stone. In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, a basilisk attack on Muggle-born students highlights an old prejudice in the wizarding world. Hermione herself is petrified by these attacks, symbolizing the dangers Muggle-borns face when bigotry and hatred reign. Despite these threats, Hermione rose to prominence and remained a key figure in the fight against Voldemort's ideas of bloodline purity. Lily Evans, Harry Potter's mother, was another Muggle-born witch whose talent and courage challenged assumptions of blood supremacy. Her extraordinary magical abilities earned her the respect of her peers, including Severus Snape and James Potter. But her Muggle status made her a laughingstock to some, including Slytherin Snape's friends who believed in pure blood. The central character of the series, Harry Potter, is the son of a mixed race, his father is a pure-blood James Potter, and his mother is a Muggle-born Lily Evans. His hybrid identity played a crucial role in Voldemort's final defeat. Voldemort's obsession with blood purity blinded him to the fact that the half-blood Harry embodied many of the qualities the Dark Lord despised: courage, tenacity, and an unwavering sense of morality. Throughout the film, Harry refuses to accept the idea that blood defines a person's worth as he fights not only for the rights of Muggle-borns and half-bloods but also for the survival of the wizarding world.

#### **b. Current Issues**

The discrimination against Muggle-borns and half-bloods has been an enduring issue in magical society. These prejudices, long perpetuated by influential pure-blood families, are based on the belief that pure-blood wizards are inherently superior to those of mixed or non-magical heritage.

While blood-status discrimination has existed for centuries, it becomes more pronounced during this period due to the looming return of Lord Voldemort, a powerful dark wizard whose ideology centers on pure-blood



supremacy. Voldemort's followers, the Death Eaters, advocate for the dominance of pure-bloods and openly target Muggle-borns and half-bloods, viewing them as inferior and unworthy of magic. Even before Voldemort's return, this belief system is deeply ingrained in many segments of wizarding society, particularly among conservative and wealthy pure-blood families like the Malfoys. These families wield significant social and political influence, making it difficult to challenge these discriminatory views.

As Voldemort regains power in secret, pure-blood supremacist ideologies become more dangerous, emboldening those who believe in blood purity and increasing the marginalization of Muggle-borns and half-bloods. Even at Hogwarts, a school meant to educate and unite young witches and wizards, these tensions are palpable. Muggle-born students, like Hermione Granger, face open hostility, being labeled with derogatory terms like mudblood. House affiliations, especially Slytherin's historical connection to pure-blood ideology, further divide students along blood-status lines. Though some staff members and students challenge these prejudices, they are often silenced or ignored.

The Ministry of Magic, the main governing body, plays a crucial role in the problem by refusing to address the return of Voldemort and the increasing danger of Death Eaters' activity. The Ministry focuses on maintaining status. This allows discrimination to grow rather than protecting Muggle-borns.

Moreover, Muggle-borns live in constant fear after the events of the appearance of the Dark Mark at the Quidditch World Cup, and the duel between Harry Potter and Voldemort at the end of the Triwizard Tournament (Events from the movie Goblet of Fire). Despite these alarming events, The Ministry denies Voldemort's return, resulting in Muggle-borns being vulnerable. If Voldemort were to rise to power, Muggle-borns are likely to be targeted first as they were at his first reign.



The Order faces immense challenges, as it operates in secret and must contend with the Ministry's opposition, Death Eater threats, and the general fear and complacency of the wizarding population.

### **c. Bloc Positions**

As we formulate solutions and discuss the topic, all delegates are expected to rely only on the events, characters, and information presented in the first four books and movies. Any references to events or characters from Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix or later books/movies are outside the scope of this committee.

Note: Your witches' or wizards' solutions must be based on your character's ideals, beliefs, -past- actions, and thoughts on the topic.

#### **1. Progressive Faction (Pro-Equality)**

This group strongly advocates for equal and equitable treatment of all witches and wizards, regardless of blood status. The members of this faction believe that discrimination against half-bloods and Muggle-borns is a significant issue that requires immediate and decisive action. Their goals include:

- Reforming laws to ensure equal access to education, jobs, and resources for all magical beings.
- Strengthening anti-discrimination policies within the Ministry of Magic and other governing bodies.
- Combating prejudice in the magical community through educational campaigns and cultural awareness programs.

#### **Key Supporters:**

- Aberforth Dumbledore: Generally supports equality, although his character is complex.
- Alastor Moody: Fights against Voldemort and his followers, supporting equality in the fight.





- Albus Dumbledore: Fights for the rights of all wizards, regardless of blood status.
- Arabella Figg: Shows support towards Harry when he was accused of lying about Voldemort's return, demonstrating a protective nature.
- Emmeline Vance: An Order of the Phoenix member, fighting for equality.
- Filius Flitwick: Generally portrayed as fair and supportive to all students.
- Harry Potter: Stands up for his friends and against prejudice.
- Hermione Granger: A strong advocate for the rights of Muggle-borns.
- Kingsley Shacklebolt: Works against Voldemort and supports equality in the wizarding world.
- Luna Lovegood: Embraces diversity and stands by her friends.
- Minerva McGonagall: Supports equality and defends her students.
- Ron Weasley: Generally supports his friends and opposes discrimination.
- Rubeus Hagrid: Advocates for all magical creatures and opposes prejudice.

## 2. Moderate Faction (Reform-Oriented, Cautious Approach)

Note: Witches and wizards in the moderated faction (Stated in the next paragraphs) are expected to debate considering both sides of the issue, providing insights and different perspectives to the debate. This is to encourage a balanced exchange of ideas, promote a deeper understanding of all viewpoints, and help explore all angles of the issue.

The moderate faction supports the idea of equality but often advocates for a gradual approach to change. They recognize that discrimination exists but are cautious about pushing reforms too aggressively, fearing backlash or instability. They may:

- Propose incremental reforms to existing policies, such as improving job opportunities for Muggle-borns within the Ministry.
- Seek to reform Hogwarts' curriculum to include greater education on tolerance and inclusivity.



- Call for open dialogue between pure-blood families and marginalized groups to foster mutual understanding.

Key Supporters:

- Mundungus Fletcher: While Mundungus is part of the OOTP and has never shown any kind of discrimination against Muggle-borns and half-bloods, he lacks a strong ideological commitment and is driven by self-interest, being part of the Order of the Phoenix because the Order is a powerful group and wants to stay on the winning side.
- Ollivander: Ollivander has never shown any sign of discrimination towards Muggle-borns and half-bloods, but his lack of political involvement means he is not actively helping address the discrimination
- Severus Snape: Snape's actions often blur the line between both sides of the topic, he has a commitment to Dumbledore's cause, and he is mostly driven by his love towards Lily Potter. His stance on blood purity is complicated: While he is not discriminatory like other Death Eaters, suggests a level of bias.
- Certain members of the Ministry of Magic: Although some are reluctant to radically overhaul the system, they acknowledge the need for reform.
- Hogwarts faculty: Some staff members may support slow and steady reform to challenge discriminatory ideologies.
- Former Aurors and other individuals who, while fighting for justice, believe systemic change takes time.

### 3. Conservative Faction (Status Quo, Traditionalists)

This faction supports the status quo and may not believe that discrimination against half-bloods and Muggle-borns is a serious issue, or they might argue that current policies are adequate. They may:

- Defend traditional values of the wizarding world, including the idea of maintaining a "pure-blood" culture.



- Oppose what they see as overly liberal policies, believing that equal treatment is already provided to those who "deserve" it.
- Express concerns that promoting Muggle-borns too aggressively could undermine wizarding traditions or weaken the magical community.

#### Key Supporters:

- Dolores Umbridge: Implements policies that discriminate against Muggle-borns.
- Draco Malfoy: Raised to believe in blood superiority and often discriminates against others
- Peter Pettigrew: Aligns with Voldemort and does not oppose blood purity.
- Sybill Trelawney: Her views are more ambiguous, but she tends to be self-focused and doesn't advocate strongly for equality.
- Pure-blood families like the Malfoys and Nott family, who historically have upheld pure-blood supremacy.
- Some sections of the Ministry of Magic: Certain departments may be resistant to change, especially those still influenced by old pure-blood ideologies.
- Wizarding social elites who benefit from the existing structures of privilege.

#### 4. Regressive Faction (Pro-Blood Purity, Anti-Equality)

This group actively opposes the promotion of equal opportunities for Muggle-borns and half-bloods, often believing in pure-blood supremacy. They argue that only wizards of pure magical lineage are deserving of power and influence in the wizarding world. Their aims might include:

- Reinforcing blood purity laws and reinstating the kind of discriminatory policies seen during Voldemort's regime.
- Actively opposing any measures that grant Muggle-borns more access to power or privileges.
- Spreading propaganda to convince the wizarding public that Muggle-borns are a threat to wizarding society.



#### Key Supporters:

- **Former Death Eaters:** Though the Death Eaters as a formal group were defeated, many of their sympathizers still hold influential positions or operate in secret to push their agenda.
- **Pure-blood extremist families:** Families that continue to cling to Voldemort's ideology, believing that blood purity is synonymous with strength and superiority.
- **Dark magic sympathizers:** Groups or individuals who align with Dark Arts practitioners and still resent Muggle-borns and half-bloods.

#### Other Important Considerations

- **Non-human creatures (e.g., House-elves, Centaurs):** These groups, while not central to the debate on blood purity, also face severe discrimination in the wizarding world. Some factions may include them in their efforts for equality, while others overlook them entirely.
- **Muggle-born and half-blood activists:** There may be grassroots movements within the wizarding world led by Muggle-borns and half-bloods themselves, fighting for equal treatment and representation.

### **III. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Order of the Phoenix (OOTP) serves as a symbol of resistance against the systemic discrimination faced by half-bloods and Muggle-borns in the wizarding world. The deep-rooted prejudices based on blood status, perpetuated by pure-blood supremacists like the Death Eaters, mirror real-world social hierarchies that marginalize minority groups. Throughout history, half-bloods and Muggle-borns have been treated as inferior, despite their equal magical capabilities. Characters such as Hermione Granger and Lily Evans, who defied these prejudices, stand as powerful examples that blood status does not determine one's talent or worth.



The Order's mission to fight Voldemort's regime transcends physical conflict; it challenges the ideologies that enable oppression and division within the magical community. By advocating for inclusivity and equal opportunities for all, regardless of bloodline, the Order paves the way for a more just and unified society. As Voldemort's defeat marked the fall of pure-blood supremacy, the post-war era suggests a slow but significant cultural shift toward greater acceptance and equality.

The lessons drawn from the struggles and triumphs of the Order highlight the importance of standing up against bigotry, embracing diversity, and fostering equity in the face of discrimination—a message that resonates strongly in both the wizarding world and the real one.

#### **IV. Essential Questions**

Please Note: The questions posed in this section are meant to be addressed using the context of the first four books and movies only. Delegates should avoid using information from later sources in the Harry Potter series.

Also take into consideration your character's ideals, actions and beliefs on the topic when providing resolutions as stated before.

1. How do different regions of the wizarding world (e.g., Britain, Europe, or other magical communities) vary in their treatment of Muggle-borns and half-bloods?
2. What role do blood status and discrimination play in shaping the wizarding world's economy, especially in terms of employment and access to resources?
3. How has the portrayal of blood status and discrimination in wizarding media (e.g., the Daily Prophet, The Quibbler) shaped public opinion?



4. What movements or organizations, past or present, have fought for the rights of Muggle-borns and half-bloods, and what challenges have they faced?
5. What are the legal rights of Muggle-borns and half-bloods in the wizarding world, and how do they differ from those of pure-bloods?
6. How did Voldemort's rise to power influence the public's attitudes towards blood status, and how have those attitudes persisted after the First Wizarding War?
7. What role did the Ministry of Magic play in either promoting or opposing discrimination against Muggle-borns and half-bloods, both during and after the First Wizarding War?
8. How have pure-blood ideologies been maintained and spread in wizarding society over time?
9. What are the most effective strategies to address and combat discrimination against half-bloods and Muggle-borns in the wizarding world?

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