

DEBATE JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE DO NOT ASK COMPETITORS WHAT SCHOOL THEY REPRESENT

Judges may not give oral critiques.

TIMING: Rounds must start on time. If a timer is not present, please assign someone or accomplish the timing yourself.

BALLOTS: Turn ballots in within 15 minutes of the end of the round and stay until ballots have been checked.

A DECISION SHOULD BE BASED ON:

SKILL OF ANALYSIS: This includes the use of sufficient evidence and proper reference to the source.

VALIDITY OF ARGUMENT: This includes reasoning and conclusions drawn from the evidence presented.

ADEQUACY OF REBUTTAL: This includes both the defense of the case presented and the attack on the opponents case.

CLARITY OF ORGANIZATION: This includes clear outlining of constructive arguments and easily followed handling of refutation.

EFFECTIVENESS OF DELIVERY: This includes all matters pertaining to oral presentation with special emphasis upon extemporaneous abilities.

Any debater, including a novice, may receive the maximum number of speaker points.

A DECISION IS NOT BASED ON:

The merits of the questions: The judge should not be influenced by prejudices in favor of, or against, the proposition.

Partiality: The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of, or partiality for, or against either of the competing teams, their school, or coach.

Preconceived notions or arguments: The judge should not allow his/her idea of what the best affirmative or negative arguments or case may be to influence his/her decision.

A team should not be penalized for what the judge thinks is a weak point unless the opposing team had addressed that issue.

Personal preferences on debating style: A judge should not penalize a team if the style, either in case construction or delivery, differs from that which he/she personally prefers.

There are many different types of organization for a affirmative case, but no matter which one is used in a particular round (i.e. traditional needs, comparative advantage, counter plan) the debate should be judged on the other particulars as outlined in these instructions for debate judges.

A TEAM SHOULD BE PENALIZED FOR:

An unfair interpretation: If the interpretation is disputed by the negative, it shall rest with the judge whether or not the affirmative is supporting a tenable position.

Discourtesy toward opponents: Discourtesy should be penalized according to the seriousness of the offense. The extent of the penalty can vary, from the loss of that point, to the loss of the debate.

Misconstruing an opponent's argument: A speaker who misconstrues an argument unintentionally should not be penalized more than the time wasted. If intentional, the team shall in addition forfeit the argument.

Introducing new arguments into rebuttal: The judge shall disregard new arguments introduced in rebuttal or final focus. This does not include the introduction of new evidence in support of points already advanced, or answering of arguments introduced by opponents.

Speaking overtime: When a speaker's time is up, the judge shall disregard anything said beyond the closing statement. When time is up, the speaker may only finish the sentence he/she started. In Cross-examination, the person being questioned has the option of answering a question asked at the end of the time limit, or of finishing an answer they were in the middle of.

All documents in the debate may be exchanged during the round and returned when asked for or by the end of the debate.

Falsification of evidence: There are several types of falsification of evidence:

1. Deliberately making up a whole quote.
2. Providing the wrong year, or the wrong source, or

glorifying the source.

3. Leaving words out of the original, or taking the evidence out of context.

Note: Misconstruing evidence is not falsification.

Judges have the right to inspect evidence cards. If falsification has been charged in a debate round, and if so instructed by the judge, the challenged team has one-half hour after the debate round ends to produce the original source. If the support is not offered within the half-hour, the challenged team will be disqualified from the tournament. The judge should take action only if falsification has been raised as an issue by the opposing team. If the charge has been wrongly made, the team making the charges will face the same penalty as if they did the falsification themselves. Falsification of evidence charges should be made immediately when that debate is over and not during the debate.

If debaters in CX, LD, or PF meet for a second time in the same tournament, they **MUST** reverse sides.

The use of any electronic device (other than a timer) by a competitor in a debate round is prohibited.

POINT OF ORDER

A point of order should only be used at the end of a round if a breach of debate etiquette has occurred during the final affirmative rebuttal. It can be brought up in any earlier speech. There shall be no debate over the point of order. The judge should listen to the point of order, acknowledge it, but not use it as a voting issue.

SPEAKING ORDER

LINCOLN/DOUGLAS DEBATE LIMITS:

1st Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
1st Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

POLICY DEBATE LIMITS:

1st Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
1st Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
2nd Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
1st Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE LIMITS:

1st Speaker	4 minutes
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2nd Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
3rd Speaker	4 minutes
4th Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary	2 minutes
Summary	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus	2 minutes
Final Focus	2 minutes

PREPARATION TIME

Each team is allowed to request five (5) minutes of preparation time throughout the debate. Prep time can be broken into increments but the teams total cannot exceed five (5) minutes. Prep time will never be allowed before a Cross-Examination. If the team does not request prep time, the next speaker must speak as soon as possible following the preceding speech. In Public Forum Debate, prep time shall not exceed two (2) minute per team.

Lincoln Douglas debate: Focuses on the values behind our choices. Thus, it examines the core values inherent in the resolution (and/or our society) and the ability of the debaters to demonstrate that their core value is more compelling, or their opponent's core value might result in an untenable ethical position. The format encourages competitors to look at and challenge the assumptions behind our decisions, and arguments are rooted heavily in philosophy.

Policy Debate: Rather than focusing on the values behind our actions, this event (usually) assumes that our government uses a utilitarian approach to decision-making. (The government seeks to maximize the greatest good for the greatest number of people.) As such, policy debate is defined by competing policy alternatives. On the one hand, the affirmative proposes a plan to solve the problem(s) posed by the resolution. On the other, the negative supports either the existing government's policy (the status quo) or a superior counterplan. This format relies heavily on analysis, refutation, adaptation, and organization. By convention, the first two speeches in the debate usually rely heavily on quoted materials to lay a foundation for their positions.

Public Forum: Debaters receive a new topic every month. As such, their knowledge of the subject is expected to be more general than in the other two formats. The debate focuses on each team's advocacy of a position based on issues inherent in the resolution and is won or lost on the strengths or weaknesses of one or more positions presented by either team. Given the "generalist" nature of the event, the debaters usually rely heavily on their ability to frame the ideas and arguments in a way that leads the audience to support their position. Public forum debate is intended to facilitate a civil exchange of ideas: while a respectful degree of argumentation during cross-fires is permitted, teams are expected to provide opponents with ample opportunity to ask and answer all relevant questions.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Rnd. _____ Rm. _____ Judge: _____ Winning Team Code _____ (PRO/CON)

Team Names & Codes: Pro _____ Con _____

NOTE: Public Forum debate focuses on each team's advocacy of a position, pro or con, based on issues inherent in the resolution. The debate is won or lost on the strengths or weaknesses of one or more positions presented by either team. Public Forum debate is intended to facilitate a civil exchange of ideas: while a respectful degree of argumentation during cross-fire rounds is permitted, teams are expected to provide their opponents with ample opportunity to ask and answer relevant questions.

Arguments by Team _____ (PRO/CON)

Opponent Response (Rebuttal and Crossfire)

Arguments by Team _____ (PRO/CON)

Opponent Response (Rebuttal and Crossfire)

Summary of Winning Arguments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Individual Speaker Points: (Separate awards are given to individual speakers.)

Rank debaters in order of excellence, 1st for best, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (no ties) and assign speaker points based on clarity, logic, analysis, use of evidence, rebuttals, eloquence, and decorum. (Superior (29-30), Excellent (27-28), Average (24-26), Fair (21-23), Poor (20).)

<p>Speaker Name _____</p> <p>Speaker Rank _____ Speaker Points _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>	<p>Speaker Name _____</p> <p>Speaker Rank _____ Speaker Points _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>
<p>Speaker Name _____</p> <p>Speaker Rank _____ Speaker Points _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>	<p>Speaker Name _____</p> <p>Speaker Rank _____ Speaker Points _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>

POLICY DEBATE BALLOT

Round _____ Room _____ Date _____ Judge _____ Timer _____

Affirmative _____ Negative _____

Rank each debater in order of excellence (1st for best, 2nd or next best, etc.). Then assign speaker points to each debater. The debater ranked 1st must have a score equal to or higher than the debater ranked 2nd. The same is true for 2nd in relation to 3rd, etc. Use this guideline: Superior (29-30), Excellent (27-28), Average (24-26), Fair (21-23), Poor (20).

Affirmative		
Team Code: _____		
Names	Rank	Points
TEAM TOTALS:		

Negative		
Team Code: _____		
Names	Rank	Points
TEAM TOTALS:		

Please provide constructive comments (to all debaters) in the space below.

In my opinion, the winning debate team was _____ representing the _____.

(code or name)

(affirmative or negative)

Reason for the decision:

Judge's Signature _____

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE BALLOT

Affirmative Code or Name _____ Negative Code or Name _____

Round _____ Room _____ Judge _____ Date _____

Topic: _____

Assign speaker points to each debater. The winning debater must have a score equal to or higher than his/her opponent. Use this guideline: Superior (29-30 points), Excellent (27-28), Average (24-26), Fair (21-23), Poor (20).

Affirmative Speaker Points _____ Negative Speaker Points _____

In my opinion, the winning debater was _____ representing the _____
Code or name Aff. or Neg.

In the space below, please provide constructive comment to both debaters:

Judge's Signature _____