

# Debate Judging Instructions

Each event has its own special characteristics, requirements, customs and conventions that you will come to understand more fully as you judge different events. The following is a brief synopsis of the different events along with some of the judging criteria for each. If at any time you are assigned to an event that you are not sure about, please ask for some general help from the tournament staff.

## Debate Events General Notes:

- Please make sure you record the following on the ballot: debaters' names and codes, which side (Pro/Con or Affirmative/Negative) won the debate, and points and/or ranks (if applicable) to each debater or team (an average range is 25-30).
- In addition to this information, please make sure you write a few sentences of constructive feedback on the ballot for each debater or team in addition to why you chose which side you think won the round (this is called the "Reason for Decision"). Do not, however, verbally disclose who you think won the debate.
- Most debaters will keep their own time, but they may ask you to keep track of prep time or help with timing of the speeches.
- Because debaters must debate on both sides of the given resolution, please remember to evaluate the round based only on arguments debaters made and not on your personal opinions.

Public Forum Debate	Judging Criteria	Time Limits
<p>Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by a resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to a "citizen judge," i.e. a member of an American jury.</p> <p>Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.</p>	<p>Did competitors...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis?</li> <li>• Utilize evidence effectively?</li> <li>• Present a clash of ideas?</li> <li>• Counter the arguments of the opponents?</li> <li>• Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, and fluency?</li> </ul>	<p>First Speaker Team A = 4 Min.            First Speaker Team B = 4 Min.            Crossfire = 3 Min.            Second Speaker Team A = 4 Min.            Second Speaker Team B = 4 Min.            Crossfire = 3 Min.            Summary 1st Speaker /A = 3 Min.            Summary 2nd Speaker/ B = 3 Min.            Grand Crossfire = 3 Min.            Final Focus 2nd Speaker /A = 2 Min.            Final Focus 2nd Speaker/ B = 2 Min.            Prep Time per team = 3 Min</p>

Lincoln Douglas Debate	Judging Criteria	Time Limits
<p>Lincoln Douglas Debate is an individual debate event that advocates or rejects a position posed by a resolution. A central tenet of this value-based debate is that debaters will try to convince you that the resolution or her/his opponent is/is not philosophically and/or pragmatically correct.</p> <p><b>Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities ought not consider standardized tests in undergraduate admissions decisions.</b></p>	<p>Did competitors...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide proof that his/her side of the resolution is more valid?</li> <li>• Establish a cohesive strategy of argumentation?</li> <li>• Present a clash of ideas?</li> <li>• Counter the arguments of the opponents?</li> <li>• Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, and persuasion?</li> </ul>	<p>Affirmative Constructive = 6 Min.  Cross-examination = 3 Min.  Negative Constructive= 7 Min.  Cross-examination = 3 Min.  1st Affirmative Rebuttal= 4 Min.  Negative Rebuttal = 6 Min.  2nd Affirmative Rebuttal = 3 Min.  Prep Time per debater = 4 Min.</p>

Policy Debate	Judging Criteria	Time Limits
<p>Policy (or Team) Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by a resolution. Policy debate focuses on the advocacy of a plan or policy action. The affirmative team should outline some sort of need; the negative team may argue that the affirmative policy fails to meet the need they have outlined, present disadvantages to the policy, or simply refute the resolution.</p> <p><b>Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.</b></p>	<p>Did competitors...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively use evidence to support their side?</li> <li>• Use clear and cohesive arguments to draw conclusions from the evidence presented?</li> <li>• Present a clash of ideas?</li> <li>• Counter the arguments of the opponents?</li> <li>• Appear skilled in analyzing a variety of concepts and ideas?</li> <li>• Communicate ideas with clarity and organization?</li> </ul>	<p>1st Affirmative Constructive: 8 min.  Cross-examination: 3 min.  1st Negative Constructive: 8 min.  Cross-examination: 3 min.  2nd Affirmative Constructive: 8 min.  Cross-examination: 3 min.  2nd Negative Constructive: 8 min.  Cross-examination: 3 min.  1st Negative Rebuttal: 5 min.  1st Affirmative Rebuttal: 5 min.  2nd Negative Rebuttal: 5 min.  2nd Affirmative Rebuttal: 5 min.  Prep Time per team = 8 Min.</p>

Thank you for judging!