

JUDGES RESPONSIBILITY

Important in Red, Details in Green.

The judges are responsible for five main things:

- 1- Conduct the debate and time keep (If no other time keeper available)
- 2- Judge the debater (score the debater on the rubric sheet)
- 3- Judge the debate (Who wins and who loses)
- 4- Provide feedback for debate and individual speakers.
- 5- Explain why a particular side won the debate.

PROCEDURE:

- Write your name, the names of the teams and contestants, the round # and topic on each of the sheet provided. Critical for tabulation between debates.
- Flip a coin to determine what sides the teams will debate on. Flip must be random, no choice given. Position the teams (Prop on Left and Opp on right of the judge).
- Double check names of contestants in order of speakers as they are seated.
- Greet everyone, announce topic, and ask debaters if they are ready.
- Call upon the speakers one by one to the podium, in the following order.

Prop 1st constructive, Opp 1st Constructive, Prop 2nd constructive, Opp 2nd Constructive, Opp 3rd rebuttal, Prop 3rd Rebuttal.

- Time the speeches. The first 4 speeches are constructive and are 5 minutes each. The first and last minute of which is called protected time where no POIs are allowed.

Judges must bang (LOUD) on the table :

1 bang: After 1 minute to indicate protected time is over

1 bang: after 4 minutes to indicate protected time begins

2 bangs: after 5 minutes to indicate the time is over

The last two speeches are rebuttal speeches of 3 minutes each. Judges must bang the table:

1 bang after 2 minutes to let debater know 1 minute left

2 bangs after 3 minutes to let debater know his/her time is over. (No POIs in rebuttal).

- Keep both the flow chart and rubric sheet in front of you. Take Notes on the flow chart. Under the columns for each speech take note of definitions, any points or arguments put forth

by the debaters, any refutations, comebacks and POIs. Draw arrows between columns to indicate any arguments refuted or any comebacks so it may FLOW and it will be easier for you to know which arguments were addresses and which were not. YOU will see the flow of an argument through the speakers.

On the rubric sheet make quick notes on the debater himself/herself and not the debate if something springs up at you. Mostly in style/manner eg: No eye contact, Take hands out of pockets, etc. DO NOT SPEND TIME WRITING COMMENTS WHILE SPEECH GOING ON.

- Pull out the rubric guide and go through the explanation to decide where the debater being scored places. Scoring guide is very detailed and you will always find a slot for your debater.
- We ask the judges to leave their mind outside the door. Only what the debaters say exists. You may have a better way etc, that should not factor into the scoring.
- Score each debater right after their speech.
- Take your time, moderator must wait for judges to give ok before calling the next debater if different than judge.
- Judges must have STUDIED rubric guide BEFORE the debate. This is extremely important to minimize the human error.
- Do not consult with other judge regarding scoring individual debaters.
- Do not score while speaker is speaking.
- Beware of difference in public speaking and debating. Do not let statistics, quotations impress you. They are only important if they help demonstrate or prove a point and just as important as an example that does the same thing. Do not let style spill over when scoring matter and method.

You will be scoring the three Ms. Matter, Manner and Method.

IMPORTANT: “ It is critically important for the judges to score according to empirical performance according to a standard (following the Rubric Guide) and not to score relative to the debate going (on that) they are watching. If you are watching two of the weaker teams, make sure not to inflate their scores (e.g., just because someone is the best debater in a particular debate, does not mean they should get scores in the high 20's). Otherwise, the team totals to determine the semifinalists will be skewed. One year we has a very weak team advance and I believe it was for the reason described above.” _ From Br. Samir

We cannot emphasize enough the use of the Rubric Guide!

MATTER: focuses on *what* the debaters say.

The soundness of their arguments:
the strength of their reasoning and

the evidence that they provide.

The strength, effectiveness and completeness of refutations

how well the points were driven home or if they were just skimmed over. Analogies, examples to illustrate the point.

Points will be deducted under matter if they do not refute all the arguments they were supposed to refute (the ones brought up in the previous speech)

Points will be deducted if they do not make the points that they said they would.

AREs (Assertion, Reasoning and Evidence) and strength of refutation (4 Step refutation)

Time used by the debater. Please write it down on flow chart. Debaters will lose points here if they do not use the complete time. IF the debater goes way over time then points will be deducted but for just finishing a thought or quick wrap up no penalty.

MANNER is *how* the debaters said what they said.

The confidence of the debater in not only his/her demeanor but the confidence and comfort in the arguments he/she is presenting,

the eye contact,

the persuasiveness,

humor and wit

tone of voice

overall performance.

How well the debater handled the POIs. Two things: Does the debater maintain command of the floor or allows his/herself to be disrupted on opponents terms. Second, how well the debater responds to the POI. Could he deflect it in a confident and articulate manner.

How well the debater took command of the floor.

So for example if the debaters makes a slip or blunders or forgets a point but handles it well through humor or confident backtracking they must gain points for that.

The command of language, vocabulary use and creative ways of repeating the same thing to drive the point home are other areas that fall under this heading. Note that humor and wit are looked upon positively in Parliamentary style of debating.

METHOD

Focuses on the structure and flow of the debater's speech.

Structure of the case and individual arguments.

Two areas of structure - within the debater's speech and the flow between the three debaters.

Roles of debaters: Does the debater fulfill his/her role.

First Speaker, The first should introduce the topic and lay out their case, define the topic, then explain how he/she and his/her teammates will be addressing this (I will speak on the political aspect and my second speaker will speak on the economic and social aspect). Thus there must be a flow within the team. 1st speaker must bring a few (could even be 1 or 2 depending on how much time the definition takes) points to support their topic.

The opposition First would not need to define the topic rather accept or reject the definition. If they chose to reject it, then they must justify why it was unfair, inappropriate etc. Again as First opposition he/she must refute the points of 1st prop, then lay down their case and have a few points of their own.

Second: Both second speakers have the same role. Refute every argument from the previous speaker and bring in more supportive points for them selves. Must refute EVERY argument presented and provide comebacks/rejoinders to the refutations that were brought for the 1st speakers points.

Third: The third speaker's role is to summarize and show how or why they should win the debate. Should go something like this "The prop had three points: social, economic and political. They said blah blah which is false because of blah blah... second they said blah... and this is why that is wrong, third they said blah blah to which we responded blah showing htat it was irrelevant/unnecessary/insignificant blah... Now what have we said? We had 3 arguments, first this to which they said this but it is wrong because of this, second this which they did not address at all and third..." . And then the guy/girl concludes.

Structure within and inter speech. First speaker example given. Second speakers should link and reiterate what first said: My first speaker has shown you h ow it is viable socially, I will show you how it is economically viable etc. .. This linking shows the method and structure. Also there must be structure within each debater's speech itself. (I will be showing you how this is not viable socially. I will be looking at two levels, the effect at the individual, and the community or I will be showing how this is not viable politically. My first point is that history shows that it never was a viable solution, and secondly that in the current political context it is impractical and unrealistic). This goes for all speakers. A debater will lose points if he/she is jumping back and forth between arguments, if there is no clarity in the different points, if they look lost and struggling through the speech. However, if the speech is overall structured but the debater made a mistake and is backtracking then through judge's discretion they may not lose any points eg: "Although I have moved on to my points it is important at this point to go back and address what the second speaker said earlier..." Here of course it will depend if the speaker looks confident in this backtracking. Also judges should note how the POIs effect the debater. Do they go off on tangents just because of a POI or can they keep their focus?

Remember Public speaking v/s debating

- Finish scoring last debater. End of debate. Thank debaters and audience.
- Leave the room if more than one judge. Hand over command to a parent who may just keep peace or open the floor for audience to speak ON THE TOPIC, not criticize the debate or debaters.

- Tally your scores. Do not consult with other judges while scoring the debaters.
- Determine Best Speaker. Highest score determines the best speaker. If more than one judge, average out the scores.
- Determine who won the debate through consultation and consensus between judges.
- Must have a winner. No ties!
- Logic and soundness of arguments and refutations is of utmost importance .
- We ask the judges to judge by the criteria put forward by the debaters themselves.
- Please do not use any personal biases or opinions or preferences/ beliefs in determining who won.
- Remember burden of proof lies with Proposition. Did they make a case? Did they answer all refutations and points of the opposition adequately. Did they fully make the case. Then they win. If the opposition poked holes that they could not fill, not left any arguments of opp unanswered or inadequately answered etc. then they lose.

WHO WINS? Copying here how to determine who wins:

How do you choose who won the debate? **It is NOT the team that scores higher points.** Even the best team may deliver very good and sound speeches but may not respond adequately in a particular topic to the rebuttals and therefore may not make a sound case and lose the debate. How do you decide?

Remember you should decide the debate based on the criteria offered by the debaters in the round.

First, look at the arguments. Check which ones were successfully refuted and which lay standing on both sides. Your flow sheet will help you there. Make sure to not let your opinion or bias enter here. **However it is NOT the number of arguments won on each side either that decides who wins.** Now you have your raw material.

Next you answer the following questions:

- Did the proposition make a case? In this you will have to look at their line of reasoning, the AREs, and the arguments brought forth.
- Did the opposition show that the case was either flawed, inadequate or a dangerous opinion in any way? Were there refutations complete? Look for the 4-step refutation or other complete ways of refutation.
- Were the rejoinders that the proposition brought up adequate in reinstating their stance and did they address all rebuttals brought up?

Typically this should tell you who won the debate. If the proposition had a sound case and they addressed all rebuttals adequately, they win. If the opposition had brought arguments that the proposition could not satisfy, then the opposition wins. **Remember the burden of proof lies with the proposition.**

Sometimes, as all debates do have two sides, it may not be that clear, especially if both sides are equally good (or bad) debaters. Then we look at some of the following:

- Lets say each side proved one argument conclusively. Then you can look at the significance of the argument overall in the outcome of the debate.
- You may also look at what has a greater impact.
- You could also look at any arguments that were dropped. Normally you wouldn't do that if the other side did not pick it up, but in case of a tie, you would.
- Here you may have to let your mind in.

- Go back and give feedback on debate it self, speakers (in general), negative and positive. Tell them who won and why. Also announce the best speaker of the debate.

- Fill ballot sheet. Please make sure you state the reason you gave the debate to a particular side. Also put in individual comments. We will be insha Allah compiling them and sending them to the debaters as feedback. This is what debaters value most.
- Return all documents to the tabulation room ASAP. We have extremely limited time between rounds and we have to pair the teams and judges for the next time within that time.

Points for Format:

- **POIs must be around 15 seconds. Upto the speaker to make sure the opposition does not take away their time.**
- **No back and forth in POI. Take point and address judge with response.**
- **Opposition 3rd comes before Prop 3rd.**
- **Team work is noted. Help ends once the speaker stands up to speak.**
- **Burden of proof lies with Proposition**
- **Prop has the DIVINE RIGHT OF DEFINITION.**
- **Debaters must address judges,**
- **Remember the difference between public speaking and debate.**

JazakAllahukhairan for all the time you are giving.