

Tips for Judges

Things to Remember When Judging

LEAVE YOUR OPINIONS AT THE DOOR! The only facts known in the debate are what the teams bring forth. It is not the job of a 13 year old to change a judge's lifelong belief.

DON'T FILL IN FOR SPEAKERS. Judges should not "fill in" what they believe a speaker was going to say, should have said, or probably meant. What speakers say is what the speakers said, and that's all there is.

PROPOSITION TEAMS MAY REASONABLY "SHRINK" A TOPIC. But defining a topic is restricted to defining words in the topic within reasonable limits, such as a "child" being defined as between the ages of 8 and 16, rather than a "child" being defined as a juvenile cactus clinging to the nether regions of the Arabian peninsula.

TAKE THOROUGH NOTES ON YOUR FLOWSHEET. This will help you decide the debate and set a good example for the students.

Assigning Speaker Points

You will have to assign points to all students in the debate. These points are a measure of individual performance in the debate. We suggest you use the following scale:

- 30: Almost no one should get a 30. A perfect score should happen every few years with a really brilliant speech.
- 28-29: Brilliant.
- 26-27: Strong, well above average.
- 25: Above average
- 23-24: Modest success as a debater
- Points below 23 should be reserved for people who are both unsuccessful as debaters and are also obnoxious and mean-spirited.
- Points should never drop below a 20, even if a debater was particularly bad. Lower points frequently exclude a debate team from elimination rounds, so if you give points below 20, you are saying that a debater has no chance of rehabilitation in any other debates.

Please check next sheet for details.

One Page Debate Reference Sheet

There are two sides in the debate: the proposition side and the opposition side. The proposition team makes a case for the motion for debate. The opposition team opposes the case made by the proposition team, through both direct and indirect refutation.

There are three debaters per side. Everyone gives one speech. This is the order of the speeches:

First proposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker makes a case for the motion for debate, providing a proof of the topic with three or four major points.

First opposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker makes several arguments against the proposition team's case and refutes the proposition's major points.

Second proposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker should rebuild and extend upon the proposition's case. This means that this speaker must extend and amplify the original proposition points and refute the opposition's major arguments against the case.

Second opposition constructive – 5 minutes

This speaker amplifies the opposition arguments against the case, providing new information about why the opposition team should win the debate. This speaker should answer the proposition's answers to the opposition team's original arguments.

Opposition rebuttal – 3 minutes

This speaker must put the debate together and explain why, given all of the arguments in the debate, the opposition team should still win the debate. Should finalize refutation of the proposition's major points.

Proposition rebuttal – 3 minutes

This speaker should summarize the issues in the debate and explain why, even with the opposition's arguments, the proposition teams should win the debate. Should refute the opposition's major points.

Points of information

May be a statement or a question. Can only be attempted during the middle three minutes of each constructive speech. May not be more than 15 seconds long. The speaker must recognize you to make your point. If the speaker does not recognize you, you must sit down.