

Golden Gate Speech Association

www.GGSA.org

Dear **DEBATE** Judges,

Thank you very much for donating your time. Without your help and support, this tournament would be impossible! While we will review the instructions and answer questions about judging before the first round, here is some information to help familiarize you with the debate events you are about to judge.

GENERAL PROCEDURE

- Your school is obligated to provide a certain number of judges for the day. If an emergency arises, and you need to leave, we need to know. We have to drop teams from the tournament if the judges from their school are not present.
- In the judges' room, you will be assigned a ballot with the debaters listed by code numbers.
- **DO NOT ask students about their school affiliation.** This will disallow your ballot.
- **DO NOT give oral critiques** to the students; do not reveal your decisions to the students.
- **DO** fill in the ballot completely and sign your name legibly at the bottom. **You must render a decision and vote for either the affirmative or the negative side.** In addition, you should provide comments that explain the reason for your decision and provide suggestions for improvement for the debaters. The students read your comments and use them to improve.

MONITORING THE ROOMS:

The host school has generously donated its entire campus to our endeavors. It is our goal that the teachers and school administrators return on Monday with no evidence of our having been here. **So please...**

- **Do not allow any food or drinks** in the classrooms. Ask the students to dispose of food outside the classroom so the ants do not visit over the weekend.
- **Do not allow the students to move furniture!** If it is absolutely necessary to move furniture in the room so students can speak, then ask students to put the room back the way they found it. Also, please watch to make sure nothing is taken from the room.
- **Do not allow students to erase** teacher material on the whiteboard. If students are using the whiteboard, make sure they use the correct pens and erase their material.
- **Do not allow ANYONE** to touch the teacher's computer or personal items on the desk.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What if I've never judged before?

Don't worry! We want the students to learn to communicate with all audiences. The ballot you will receive when you judge a round will contain a list of criteria for how to judge each type of debate. Read it and then determine which competitors won the debate.

What if I discover that I know one of the contestants in a round or if I've previously judged that contestant? The judging house staff will make every effort to ensure that you do not judge students from your school, and that you not judge the same debaters twice. However,

mistakes do happen. It is very difficult to judge students whom you know, and it can be disconcerting for the students.

Please take the ballot back to the judges' room to exchange ballots if...

- you know a student in a group you are about to judge.

- you have already judged a debater at this tournament

It is ok to judge students in a debate event whom you've previously judged on the opposite side—hopefully their presentations will be different!

Are students allowed to use computers at the debate?

Yes and No. Computers are now permitted during policy, public forum and Lincoln Douglas debate rounds. Computers are not permitted during parliamentary debate rounds.

Are students allowed to use cellphones as timers?

Yes! CHSSA rules now allow cellphones to be used as timers in all debate events. Cellphones must be used as timers only and must be set to airplane mode.

Should I take notes?

Taking notes during the debate will help you make a better decision and make it easier to give feedback to the students.

What if I have a personal opinion about the issue being debated? Please try to put aside your personal views. The debaters do not choose their topic or the side that they must uphold.

What should I do if I believe a violation of the rules has occurred?

Confusion or conflict about specific rules may arise while you are judging. The best course of action is for you to hear the speeches, make your evaluation of the debate as if there were no question about the rules, and then consult with tournament officials in the judges' room about the rules in question after the round is over. If the debate has been heard and evaluated completely, we can do a much better job of determining the best course of action.

Whom do I ask if I have a question about the rules?

Please direct all of your questions to the staff in the judges' room. There are there to help!

How do I award speaker points for the debaters?

Please consider the following scale for awarding speaker points to each of the debaters. These points will help us break ties when we advance to elimination rounds,

30 = Perfect 29 = Outstanding 28 = Very Good
27 = Good (but possibly not good enough to qualify for
elimination rounds)
25-26 = Fair 20-24 = Poor <20 = Reserved for rude
or inappropriate behavior

Do I have to keep track of time?

Someone in the room must time the portions of the debate.

TIME SIGNALS FOR DEBATE EVENTS

It is very important that debaters receive time signals during their debates. **If you prefer, you can ask the debaters to time each other.** If you chose to time the debaters yourself, please follow these guidelines:

During Prep Time: While the student is preparing, call out the amount of time he/she has left in 30-second intervals: for example, "minute-thirty remaining" then "one minute remaining."

During the Debate: Use your hand to give the students visual time signals as to how much time they have left to speak. Hold up one finger for each minute they have remaining. For example, if the speaker has four minutes remaining, hold up four fingers to indicate this. When the student has only 30 seconds left, form your hand into a "C" to alert the student. During the last ten seconds of the speech you may elect to give the student a ten second count down, using your fingers.

Parli Debate Judging Instructions

What is Parli Debate? The intent of Parli debate is to encourage extemporaneous argumentation between two debaters supporting a resolution and two debaters arguing against the resolution and/or against the affirmation.

Topics: Debaters are given a new topic 20 minutes before each round. A different type of resolution is used for each round.

- **Value:** Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
- **Policy:** Proposition shows that there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
- **Fact:** Teams try to prove under what circumstances the topic would be called a valid fact.

Format

First Proposition Speech.....	7 minutes
First Opposition Speech.....	7 minutes
Second Proposition Speech.....	7 minutes
Second Opposition Speech.....	7 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal.....	5 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal.....	5 minutes

Rules:

- Debaters may use OFFLINE computers during preparation time--NOT in the round.
- Debaters MAY USE CELLPHONES AS TIMERS but must be in airplane mode only
- Debaters are not permitted to read published material in the speeches of the debate.
- During the debate, students may consult notes prepared during the preparation period.
- Debaters may take and use notes during the debate.
- Debaters may or may not take Points of Information (POIs) at their discretion. The speaker accepts a single point; the opposing speaker is not allowed to make following questions or arguments unless again recognized by the speaker holding the floor.
- The opening and closing minute of each speech are 'protected,' i.e., no Points of Information are allowed. POIs are NOT allowed in the rebuttal speeches.
- Points of Order (POOs)—to claim the opposing team has introduced a new argument in rebuttal—ARE allowed at any moment in a rebuttal speech. TIME IS STOPPED for up to 30 seconds while the POO is made and a response is given. The judge/s may take the Point of Order into account in their deliberations at their discretion.

Judging Criteria: Written comments should be provided on the debate ballot concerning the reason for your decision. The decision should be based on the following issues:

- **Analysis:** How reasonably and effectively the debaters analyze the topic and the arguments offered during the debate.
- **Evidence:** How appropriately and efficiently the debaters support arguments with evidence—which may include facts and references to authority as well as general knowledge.
- **Argumentation:** How directly and effectively the debaters respond to opposing arguments
- **Points of Information:** How relevant and effective were the questions and the answers
- **Delivery:** How well the debaters speak in an organized, communicative style that is pleasant and easily understandable
- **Courtesy:** How courteous and respectful the debaters were to opponents and judges