

Judging Instructions for Parliamentary Debate

Parliamentary debate is extemporaneous debating on topics that change from debate to debate. There are two speakers per team, and two teams in a debate. One team is called the Affirmative team. This team supports the resolution for debate by making a specific case for the resolution. The other team is called the Negative team. This team opposes the Affirmative team's case for the resolution.

Topic approach: A different topic is used for each round of debate. Your ballot should display the topic for the upcoming round, or the students will inform you when they arrive. There are generally 3 types of topics:

- Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
- Policy: Proposition shows 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: Both teams try to prove under what circumstances the topic would be called a valid fact

Length and order of speeches:

1st Aff Constructive	7 minutes
1st Neg Constructive	8 minutes
2nd Aff Constructive	8 minutes
2nd Neg Constructive	8 minutes
Neg Rebuttal	4 mins (<i>No New Arguments</i>)
Aff Rebuttal	5 mins (<i>No New Arguments</i>)

Preparation Time during the round: Debaters have NO preparation time during the round. All speaking time should be timed, except BRIEF off-time roadmaps.

Preparation Time before the round: Prior to arriving in your room the debaters were in an "Parli preparation room". There they were given their topics for the first time and 20 minutes to prepare consulting only their partner and reference materials including the internet.

Computer Policy: Students are not permitted to use computers or printed evidence during the debate.

Points of Information: These are common practice in parliamentary debating. To make a point of information, a member of the opposing rises for recognition by the speaker. If the point is accepted, the opposing team member directs a statement or question to the speaker. The speaker is technically yielding time from their own speech for the point of information and the time for the point is deducted from the speaker holding the floor.

1. Points of Information must be concise statements or questions lasting no more than fifteen seconds.
2. Debaters may or may not take points of information 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.
3. The opening and closing minute of each speech are 'protected,' i.e., no Points of Information are allowed. Points may be made after the first minute and before the last minute of each speech. The judge should tap the desktop to indicate that one minute has elapsed and points of information may commence. The judge should then tap the desktop when one minute remains in each speech to indicate that no more points may be attempted.
4. Points of order can only be made in the final two speeches. They should only be made if there are strict violations of parliamentary protocol. The judge may acknowledge the point of order on the spot or prefer to take the information into consideration.