

Judging Instructions for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

If you are assigned a Lincoln-Douglas debate ballot, please proceed directly to the room.
Ballots should be submitted at the end of each debate.

Logistics

Two competitors will arrive at the start of the round. Start the round when your scheduled debaters are there. Please make sure to double check the names and sides before beginning the round. Remember, the ballot screen has the correct matchup on it.

Topic

Students will debate the following resolution

Resolved: In the United States, reporters ought to have the right to protect the identity of confidential sources.

Time Allocation

Time limits for LD are 6-3-7-3-4-6-3, with 4 minutes preparation time per debater.

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross Examination by Negative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross Examination by Affirmative	3 minutes
1 st Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

You are the official timekeeper for the round. Students are permitted to time themselves/each other and cell phones may be used as timers. If you do not feel that you can simultaneously keep time and take notes during the debate, ask the teams to keep time for each other. Many debaters feel comfortable keeping track of time during the debate, but because this is an early tournament with a Novice division, it is best if you can keep a timer as well.

Flowing/Taking Notes

To help you decide which team to vote for at the end of the round, we encourage you to take many notes during the debate. Setting up your paper like a grid with one speech in each column is how many judges track or “flow” a debate. This process allows you to see how a debater responds to the arguments of the previous speaker.

Computer Policy

Students may use/read evidence located on their computer but it cannot be new evidence found during the debate round. (Please note that use of I-Pads, computers, jump drives, cloud storage, such as Dropbox, and email for the purposes of sharing speech documents is acceptable during Lincoln-Douglas debates).

Ballot Procedure

Please see the “Judging Debate” handout for details on tournament procedure. E-balloting instructions are located on the back of that form.