**Speech & Debate Judge Guidelines**

**E-Ballots**

The Grady tournament will use balloting on the website Tabroom.com You will use the account assigned to you on tabroom.com. This means you will need a laptop. We REALLY need to use the website to keep the tournament moving. If you do not have access to a laptop please email coach Mario Herrera at [rioherrera@gmail.com](mailto:rioherrera@gmail.com) and we will work things out.

**Judge Check-In**

Park in the parking lot on Eighth Street across from the school. There will be signs pointing you to the judge/hospitality lounge. Look for the “Judge Check-in” sign and let someone at the table know you have arrived. Suggestion: plan to bring work/reading etc. as you may have time between judging rounds, resulting in down-time.

Dress code is casual. There is no need for anything formal. Breakfast and lunch will be provided with snacks throughout the day. If you have dietary restrictions, please contact Mario Herrera at [rioherrera@gmail.com](mailto:rioherrera@gmail.com).

**Judging**

You will receive notification of judging a round via text, email or both. The text/email will tell you what event you are judging, how many judges will be in the room with you, the time and the room number. Your e-ballots will also be through the website. The e-ballots will have criteria and scoring guidelines for your event. Once you have arrived at your room and all judges have arrived as well, click on “Start Round.”

In Speech events, sometimes students participate in more than one event, in which case they might be late to your round. It is fine to go ahead and start without those students. But please wait for them to arrive for a maximum of ten minutes.

During the round you will need to listen carefully, and at the end of the round you will rank the students and award speaker points. Make sure you fill the ballot completely and provide positive and constructive feedback. A combination of praise and constructive criticism is extremely helpful.

In Speech events, rank by quality of presentation, with a rank of “1” being the best performer, a rank of “2” being the second best all the way to last place. You will also be asked to assign “points.” Information on this is provided below.

Once you are finished making your decision INDEPENDENTLY, press “submit ballot” and confirm your submission. .

If you have any questions, reach out to Mario Herrera in the tabulation room (Interactive Computer Lab)

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There are many on-line guidelines for judging speech and debate. An excellent one is the National Speech & Debate Association’s: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>

Sources: Georgia Forensic Coaches Association and the National Speech and Debate Association.

**INTERPRETATION/SPEECH EVENTS**

**Program of Oral Interpretation**

Time limit: 10 minutes

Multiple selections from published works of prose or poetry that have a common theme connecting the pieces. Works must be presented from a small binder, but a memorized introduction and transitions are required.

**Dramatic Interpretation/Humorous Interpretation**

Time limit: 10 minutes

Presentation cut from literature that the student has memorized and acts out, portraying all characters. There should be an original introduction and transitions. There should be clear distinctions between different characters through posture, voice, and demeanor.

**Duo Interpretation**

Time limit: 10 minutes

Duo Interpretation is similar to Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation, but presented by two students. The students may not make direct eye contact or physical contact, except in the introduction.

Some things to consider while judging Program or Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation:

* Dramatic structure: introduction, rise, climax, fall/resolution, and denouement/conclusion
* Cutting (the selection of text)
* Blocking – movements to convey space, emotion, and action. Blocking should enhance, not distract.
* Characterization – reveal personality through delivery, vocal and facial expressions, and intensity.
* Could I easily identify characters and what was happening?
* Was the plot easy to follow? Enjoyable? Polished?
* Does the performance move the audience?
* How is the pacing?

**Extemporaneous Speaking**

Time limit: 7 minutes

Speeches are prepared 30 minutes before the performance. Topics are current event questions. Student may use a single note card with less than 50 words on it. Please request the topic from EACH competitor.

**Original Oratory**

Time limit: 10 minutes

Original orations prepared by the competitor. The speech must be truthful. No more than 150 quoted words may be used.

**Informative Speaking**

Time limit: 10 minutes

Informative speech prepared by the competitor. The speech is an explanation of a chosen topic. The presentation can, but does not need to include visual aids or props.

**Impromptu Speaking**

Time limit: 7 minutes

Students select three topics from an envelope, and return two. They then have up to two minutes to prepare a speech and five minutes to deliver it. Speech should include a clear introduction, a few main points, transitions, and a conclusion. They may be funny or informative.

**Some things to consider while judging Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative, and Impromptu Speaking:**

* Sources should be cited in Extemp, Informative and Original Oratory
* Structure (introduction, body, and conclusion)
* Is the argument sound?
* Are there smooth transitions?
* Delivery – voice, movement, eye contact, volume

**SPEAKER POINTS:**

For Individual Events, speaker points are awarded on a 50-point scale:

50-47: Exceptional

46-44: Very good

43-40: Good

Below 40: Student gave little effort

**DEBATE EVENTS**

**SPEAKER POINTS:**

For debate events, speaker points are awarded on a 30-point scale:

(points can be given with decimals, such as 28.7)

30-All speeches and cross-exes were perfect in every way.

29-All speeches were exceptional and presented with evidence in a very effective manner. Fluency breaks were rare if they existed at all.

28- Very good speeches and evidence was presented in convincing manner. Good mannerisms and eye contact.

27- Average speeches with common fluency breaks and no stand out exceptionally good moments.

26- Fluency breaks were common and the delivery of evidence and arguments weren’t very convincing

25- Speeches were inconsistent and choppy and speaker seemed to have poor understanding of the topic.

**Lincoln Douglas Debate**

* LD debate is based on values and a criterion for how to judge that value. The purpose of each debater’s presentation is to convince the judge that his or her value and value criterion is more important than his or her opponent’s, and then to show how they achieve that value (through their value criterion) better than their opponent.

* Affirmative vs. Negative. The affirmative supports the resolution, and the negative is trying to convince you that the resolution is untrue.

* Cases. Each debater presents his or her case to you. This is where they lay out their arguments for their side. They should include analysis and justifications following a format: Introduction; Value and Criterion; and Contentions.

* Attack and Defense. Each debater must attack his or her opponent’s case on each argument made, and defend any arguments made against his or her respective case.

* Delivery. Debaters must have excellent communication skills. Pay attention to gestures, eye contact, vocal variety, clarity, and rate of speech.

* Decide who wins. Consider all of the above factors and decide who did the better debating. The decision is completely based on arguments made in the round. Avoid basing your decision on prior knowledge. Speaking ability is not a factor in deciding who wins. After preliminary rounds, please tell competitors who wins.

* Write down why you made your decision. List specific arguments or aspects of a performance that influenced your decision.

* Award speaker points. The best speaker in the round gets the most points even if he or she lost the round based on arguments. Most speeches are not memorized or prepared in advanced. You may award a low point win where the winner is not the best speaker, just be sure to indicate on the ballot Low Point Win (or LPW).

**Timing:**

Affirmative: 6 minutes

Cross Examination by Negative: 3 minutes

Negative: 7 minutes

Cross Examination by Affirmative: 3 minutes

Affirmative: 4 minutes

Negative: 6 minutes

Affirmative: 3 minutes

During the round, each debater gets 4 minutes of “prep time” to use at their discretion.

**Public Forum Debate**

* Public Forum Debate involves current events, and no specialized language is required to understand the event. Teams flip a coin to determine sides; one team flips the coin and the other team calls it. Whoever wins the toss gets to choose either 1. The side of the topic they want to defend or 2. The speaking position they wish to have. When the winners choose their favorite option, the other team makes their choice. Fill out the ballots with teams on the appropriate sides and individuals named in their speaker positions.

* Pro vs. Con. Pro supports the resolution, and the Con is trying to convince the judge that the resolution is untrue. The two sides should have a direct clash of ideas. Both sides must answer the simple question: Why are you right?

* Cases. Each debater (speaker 1 and speaker 2) presents his or her case to you. This is where they lay out their arguments for their side. They should include analysis and justifications. Cases should have an introduction, includes opening analysis, including resolution and definitions, and contentions, which are arguments based on sound logic and reasoning.

* Attack and Defense. Each team must attack their opponent’s case on each argument made and defend any arguments made against their case.

* Delivery Debaters must have excellent communication skills. Pay attention to gestures, eye contact, vocal variety, clarity, and rate of speech.

* Decide who wins. Consider all of the above factors and decide who did the better debating. The decision is completely based on arguments made in the round. Speaking ability is not a factor in deciding who wins. Please disclose who wins to competitors in preliminary rounds.

* Write down why you made your decision. List specific arguments or aspects of a performance that influenced your decision.

* Award speaker points. The best speaker in the round gets the most points even if he or she lost the round based on arguments. Most speeches are not memorized or prepared in advanced. You may award a low point win where the winner is not the bet speaker, just be sure to indicate on the ballot Low Point Win or LPW.
* During the round each team gets 2 minutes of prep time for the round.

**Timing:**

Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st Speaker): 4 minutes

Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st Speaker): 4 minutes

**Crossfire (between speakers 1 and 2): 3 minutes**

Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd Speaker): 4 minutes

Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd Speaker): 4 minutes

**Crossfire (between speakers 3 and 4): 3 minutes**

Speaker 1 Summary: 2 minutes

Speaker 2 Summary: 2 minutes

**Grand Crossfire (all speakers): 3 minutes**

Speaker 3 Final Focus: 2 minutes

Speaker 4 Final Focus: 2 minutes

During the round, each team gets 2 minutes of “prep time” to use at their discretion.