

Guide to Judging Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Times and Duties of Speakers

Lincoln-Douglas,
a values debate between two competitors supporting or rejecting a position posed by the bimonthly resolution, centers on a proposition of value. Debaters develop argumentation based upon a values perspective.

Affirmative Constructive

6 minutes

The Affirmative ("Aff") speaker supports the resolution, declaring the value they are going to propose and defend. Aff also presents a "value criterion" through which to measure that value.

The Aff debater will then go into their contentions, which are the substance of the argument: these are usually two or three areas of analysis and argumentation explaining the Affirmative position in detail. As with the subsequent speeches, you should "flow" the contentions on paper or ballot, diagramming/analyzing the argumentation.

Negative Cross-Examination

3 minutes

Cross-Ex questioning periods provide debate interactivity and a chance to build clash, clarity, and to challenge and advance arguments in the round. This Cross-Ex is devoted to Negative grilling the Affirmative side.

Negative Constructive

7 minutes

The Negative speaker presents their case, refuting the resolution and outlining the value and value criterion they are going to defend. They will present new definitions, if applicable, and apply their contentions to their case. The value and criterion may be the same as or different from their opponent's; an ideal combination results in substantial clash between the cases. Even though this is the opening of Neg's case, it isn't unusual for Neg to begin to refute Aff's arguments. This is where the debating begins.

Affirmative Cross-Ex

3 minutes

Affirmative questions the Neg debater on their case, asking for clarification and positioning for their Rebuttals.

1st Affirmative Rebuttal

4 minutes

The Affirmative debater uses this time to attack Neg's arguments. A quality rebuttal usually goes point-by-point, carefully addressing the opponent's contentions. If there is time, Aff will also attempt to rebut any of Neg's refutations of Aff's presented n Neg's Constructive.

Negative Rebuttal

6 minutes

Neg defends their case and again attempts to refute Aff's case. The debater will also take this opportunity to summarize or "crystallize" the round, explaining why a "Neg ballot" should be voted.

2nd Affirmative Rebuttal

3 minutes

The Affirmative has the last word, summarizing the round, crystalizing the key voting points, and explaining why an "Affirmative ballot" should be cast.

Responsibilities of the Judge

Arrival: Notify your coach of your arrival at the tournament and go to the Judges Lounge; you do not need to report to Registration (that is your coach's responsibility). You are committed to judging all rounds and we appreciate your availability for the whole day.

Conflicts: Rounds *may not* be judged by high school students. Also, do not judge a round if there is a Conflict, such as, judging a debater from your team's school or you've coached, your child, or a team you've already judged or watched in the tournament.

Do not watch other rounds—this creates Conflicts.

Rounds / Flights: Tournaments usually have four rounds — pairings, judges, and locations announced via texts/emails. Go immediately to your round when notified of the teams you're judging and location. Do not leave the Judges Lounge or building if you have a "Bye" — you may be required to fill in for a missing judge.

Ballots-Start: Most Lincoln-Douglas rounds are double-flighted: each of the four rounds actually consists of two rounds, an "A Flight" and a "B Flight." A Flight teams should go first; however, the B Flight teams may debate first if an A Flight competitor is missing (this avoids delays and Forfeits). DO NOT mix teams from different flights. For Forfeits, wait 10 minutes and ask Tab Room to render a decision.

*Begin your online ballot when both competitors for the flight are present (click **START ROUND**)*

BE OBJECTIVE — DO NOT INTERRUPT THE ROUND — NO LOW-POINT WINS — DO NOT DISCUSS YOUR DECISION WITH THE DEBATERS

Side/Speaker Order: In WACFL, Aff begins the rounds. *There is no coin flip for sides or for speaker order.* The pairing text/email announces which team has which side (Aff or Neg). Ensure the ballot accurately reflects sides and order before submitting.

Timing: The Judge is responsible for monitoring and enforcing speech, Cross-Ex, and Prep time limits, and must have a timing device (the Android app NSDA Debate Timer works well). Ask the debaters if they require hand signals for their speeches, Prep-time, and Cross-Exs; most debaters will time themselves, but you are responsible for monitoring and enforcing time limits, as well as providing hand signals when requested or necessary.

Prep Time: In WACFL, Prep Time is limited to 4 minutes per team. Debaters will track this, but you must do so as well to ensure compliance.

Ballot-Submit: Complete your ballot as the round progresses (to prevent tournament delays), and **SUBMIT** your ballot as soon as you complete it (even between flights). Keep in mind that a single judge delaying for 15 minutes, sets the *whole* tournament back 15 minutes.