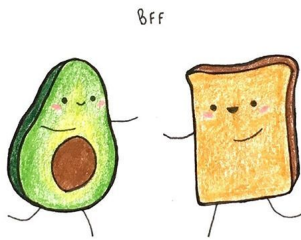
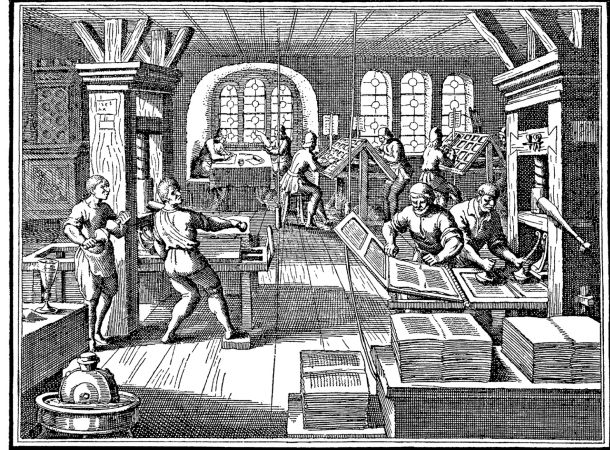


How to be an E-Judge

Once upon a time, we printed up ballots for every judge, handed them out at a ballot table (after carefully instructing our ballot table managers on the ins and outs of the alphabet, and how arranging ballots from A to Z would probably be a better idea than whatever they were doing), collected them back from the judges many, many hours later, and then laboriously copied the results onto index cards. We would then repeat the whole process for the next round.



Then we—humanity in general, not any tab room in particular—invented the automobile, kale, avocado toast and wifi. The printed ballot went the way of the dodo, replaced by the beautiful thing known as the e-ballot. Tournaments ran faster and more efficiently, and judges were relieved of the endless trek back and forth from the ballot table. Still, life wasn't all peaches and cream.

With paper ballots, we in the tab room knew if you picked up your ballot, because, well, it wasn't on the table anymore. If you didn't pick up your ballot, we had hired goons to find you and bring you to the table whether you liked it or not, or fit you with cement boots and bring you to the river, whichever was closer.





With e-ballots, the only way the tab room knows what's going on is if you correctly use the START button. Hitting the START button tells the tab room that you are in position, and that your teams are both in the room. Not hitting the START button tells the tab room that you are not in position, or your teams are not in the room, or both. Obviously, for a tournament to run smoothly, the tab room needs to know what's going on.

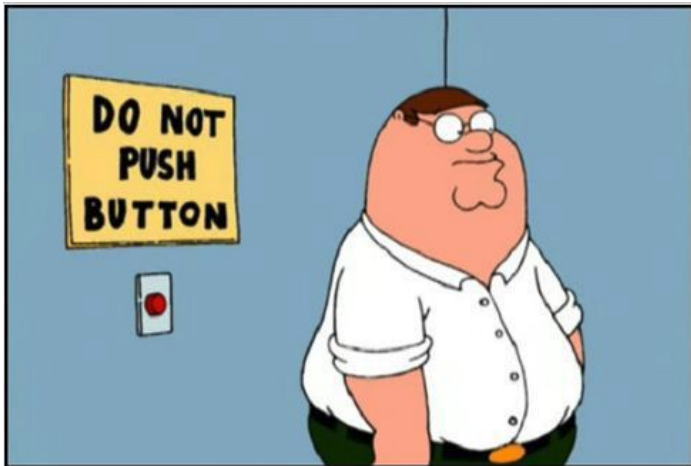
Here's how it works.

Pressing the START button at the wrong time:

Judge, sleeping in the judges' lounge, is awakened by the notice of an assignment on iPhone and automatically presses the START button. That will fool those pesky tabbers, the judge thinks with great malice. But nothing has started, and when the judge finally gets to the room—after a quick stop at Starbucks to pick up a venti half caf quad cappuccino with caramel sauce, pumpkin spice and extra eau de crapaud, shaken but not stirred—only one of the teams is there. The other team has been abducted by the Nazgul. Now what? There's no UNSTART button. Chaos ensues. The tournament grinds to a halt. Everyone goes home. It was all for nothing. The terrorists win.



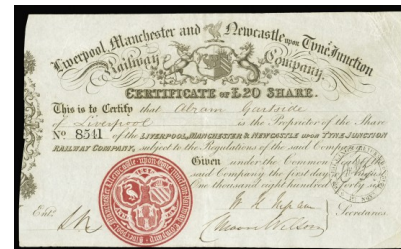
This, by the way, is a Nazgul. Debate tournaments are lousy with them.



Not pressing the START button:

Judge, sleeping in the judges' lounge, is awakened by the notice of an assignment on iPhone and proceeds to the room. Both teams are there, and the debate begins. The judge does not press the START button. The tab room, assuming that the judge has been abducted by the Nazgul, fines the judge as a no-show and assigns another judge to the round. Second judge, who was sleeping in the judges' lounge when awakened by the notice

of an assignment on iPhone and who swiftly made the journey across mountain and valley and hill and dale, avoiding the Nazgul every step of the way, arrives to find the round already happening. The second judge, now in a murderous rage over being awakened from a sound sleep for no reason, storms over to the tab room and threatens their lives with a railway share. After the round, the original judge, now in a murderous rage over being fined for missing a round just adjudicated, also storms over to the tab room and threatens their lives with a railway share. The tabbers are so traumatized that they run screaming into the night, where they are abducted by the Nazgul. Chaos ensues. The tournament grinds to a halt. Everyone goes home. It was all for nothing. The terrorists win.



Pressing the START button at the right time:

Judge, sleeping in the judges' lounge, is awakened by the notice of an assignment on iPhone and proceeds to the room. Both teams are there, and the judge, a professional in all senses of the word, presses the START button. The choir sings. The Nazgul are foiled. The terrorists lose. The tournament ends three hours early, doves are released into the air as a sign of lasting peace, and Congress passes a bipartisan piece of important legislation for the first time since the Fillmore Administration.



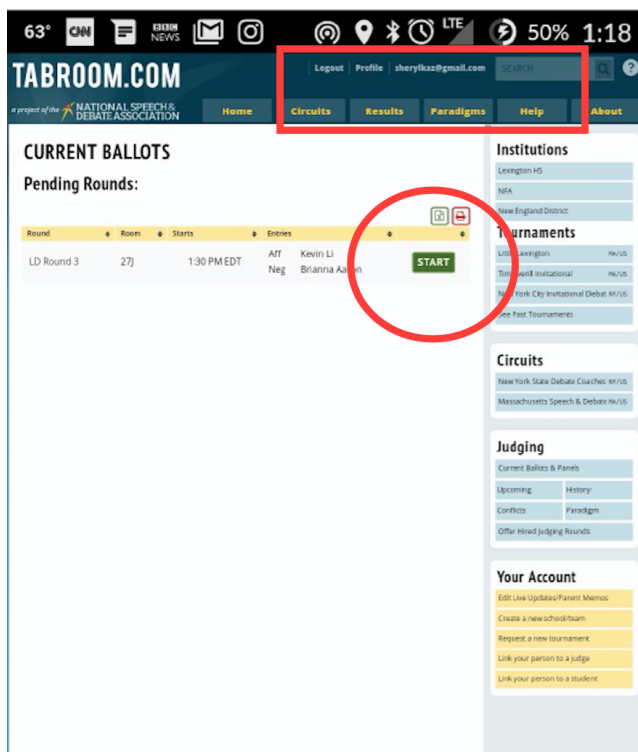
Hold it right there, bub!

Wait a minute, says you. All this talk about a START button. What do you mean, START button? What START button? Where? And must it be in all caps?



An Obama button. This is not the button you are looking for.

If you get a blast from tabroom giving you an assignment, you'll be able to find the START button on your tabroom home page on your device. This is the page you see when you click on your email address on the top right. The red rectangle in the illustration shows your email address. (All right, it actually shows Sheryl's email address, so it's only your address if you're Sheryl, but you get the idea. Work with me here.)



The circle indicates the position of the START button. Hit that button at the right time, and you will be a hero in the eyes of the tab room. Hit that button at the wrong time, or fail to hit it, and the tab room will come down on you like a ton of Nazgul.

Results

Probably at some point—when the debaters finally run out of gas and sit down and stare at you accusingly—you will want to enter your results. You will go to tabroom.com and it will ask you to enter your decision, and you will. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Oh, would that it were!

The Right Way to Enter Results:

As soon as your debaters are finished, you should make your decision. You will decide who won and who lost (there has to be both a loser and a winner; there are no draws in debate), and if it's a preliminary round, you have to decide how many points to award them (there are no points in elim rounds, except at the CFL, but they answer to a higher, or at least a more cynical, God, who doesn't believe you'll ever enter a ballot correctly until the Rapture, which is why you'll be Left Behind).



Enter your results before disclosing your decision. The chief reason for this is so that the tab room can get going as soon as possible on pairing the next round. Another reason is to prevent debaters from changing your mind. It is not unheard of for a debater or two to beat a dead horse until it comes back to life and the judges change their minds. There is no mind-changing after a decision is made, no matter how persuasive a team might be in the 5AR. Once it's over, it's

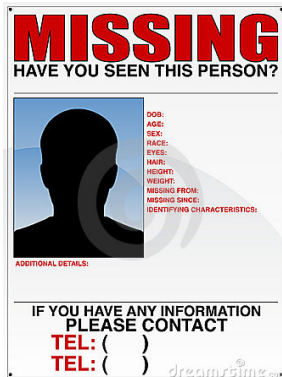
over. The results are in. Then you can talk.

Do not start talking and talking and talking and talking and talking before entering your decision.

Yes, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a debater in possession of good cases, must be in want of a judge's endless bloviating on what happened in the round, often taking longer than the round itself. If you must bloat till the cows come home, do it *after* you enter your decision. We'll eventually send someone into the room to wake up the debaters who stopped listening to you three hours ago so that they'll make it to their next round on time. As for you, how do you feel about judging 0-4 rounds for the rest of your natural days?



Issues



Judge—Are your teams not there?

Judge, sleeping, etc., etc., arrives, and one of the teams is missing. Oh, the horror. Oh, the humanity. Judge calls tab and reports a missing team. The tabbers will handle it from there. The angels sing, the Nazgul are foiled, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.



Teams—Is your judge not there?

Both teams arrive, and five minutes after start time there's still no judge, just an empty chair in the back of the room. One of two things can happen. The teams, acting responsibly, can call the tab authorities and report the situation. A new judge will be assigned and show up lickety split, and all will be well with the world. Or, the teams can wait and wait and wait, little knowing that the assigned judge has been abducted by the Nazgul. When they finally show up back at

the tab room to report a missing person, forty-five minutes after start time, the tab room will give them a double forfeit for being too knuckleheaded to have acted responsibly.



This, by the way, is a knucklehead. Debate tournaments are lousy with them.

OMG! The wifi just went down!

Well, there's two possibilities here. You can: A) access tabroom.com on your phone and enter the results that way; or B) you can join the multitude of knuckleheads panicking in the streets. We recommend option A. In fact, we recommend a complete life philosophy that includes both the slogan "Don't Panic" and always carrying a towel, the latter of which is a massively useful aid in traveling the galaxy.



What About Break Rounds and Round Robins?

A very good question. I'm glad I asked it.

As you know, break rounds and RRs have multiple judges. Each judge needs to press the START BUTTON independently once the teams (and the judge) are in the room. This will alert the tab room that all is well with that one judge, and help us track down the judges who aren't there yet. This means that each judge in breaks or RRs needs to be especially careful not to press START until both teams are in place.



Sorry, Mr. Loaf, but two out of three ain't good at all, and does not an elimination round make, which is why, as far as anyone can tell, you were never much of a debater in your day.

Despite the independent starting, If a judge is missing, please contact the tab room. We have judges up the wazoo, and can provide a satisfactory replacement in the twinkling of an eye. Or more likely, we usually have to throw in some shmegeggy who was struck by both sides and who would prefer to stay in the judges' lounge working on their immigration status, but beggars can't be choosers. Don't blame us when a judge goes AWOL.

DETECTIVE DIVISION CIRCULAR No. 11 SEPTEMBER 17, 1930	POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK	BE SURE TO FILE THIS CIRCULAR FOR REFERENCE
Police Authorities are Requested to Post this Circular for the Information of Police Officers and File a Copy of it for Future Reference.		
\$5,000.00 REWARD		
<p>The CITY OF NEW YORK offers \$5,000 reward to any person or persons furnishing this Department with information resulting in locating Joseph Force Crater</p>		
		
<p>JOSEPH FORCE CRATER JURYMAN OF THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OF NEW YORK</p>		
<p>DESCRIPTION—Born in the United States—Age, 41 years; height, 5 feet; weight, 185 pounds; mixed grey hair, originally dark brown, thin at top, parted in middle; "slicked" down; complexion, medium dark, considerably tanned; brown eyes; false teeth, upper and lower jaw, good physical and mental condition at time of disappearance. Tip of right index finger somewhat mutilated, due to having been recently crushed.</p>		
<p>Wore brown sack coat and trousers, narrow green stripe, no vest; either a Panama or soft brown hat worn at rakish angle, size 6 1/2, unusual size for his height and weight. Clothes made by Yvonne. Affected colored shirts, size 14 collar, probably bow tie. Wore tortoise-shell glasses for reading. Yellow gold Masonic ring, somewhat worn; may be wearing a yellow gold, square-shaped wrist watch with leather strap.</p>		
<p>EDWARD P. MULROONEY, Police Commissioner</p>		
Phone Spring 3100.		



If debaters are missing, most likely they're off prepping somewhere. At a well run tournament (and if I'm running it, it's well-runness is a given), there is plenty of time between rounds for critiques and prepping, so start times are real, and teams are expected to be in

place. If a team has not shown up by the start time, let the tab room know. We will send out those goons who haven't had anything to do since the elimination of the paper ballot.

Stirring Conclusion

The tab room has only one goal, which is to get the damned tournament over and done with, and to provide great judging in all the rounds. Okay. Two goals, ending and judging, and getting out for decent meals once in a while. Okay. Three goals. Ending, judging, and eating. And listening to the latest yodelling competition recordings between rounds.

Whatever.

Anyhow, we're all in this together. If we all approach tournaments as professionals, a swell time will be had by all.

