



Castle Classic - Debate Topics & Ballot Checklist

1. Double check that the **CODES** and **NAMES** of the competitors on each individual ballot comment section and your final rankings/decision match the correct entry.
2. Many students (in non-debate events) are double/triple entered each round. Please allow for those double/triple entered students to leave before all competitors have performed and/or enter late without penalty. DO NOT wait for all competitors that appear on your list to arrive before you start the performances. Start as soon as you arrive.
3. Double check that you rank/score each competitor under their correct code and name before you submit your ballot.
4. **RANK** the competitors in ALL rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. This is how you think the students placed in the round (best performer/speaker gets the 1, 2nd best the 2, etc)
5. You will also need to assign each entry a **SCORE** which will be points ranging from **20** (*yikes, that was a pretty rough performance*) to **50** (*WOW you totally nailed it*). Do not tie points, and the highest rank needs to have the most points assigned, 2nd place, the next highest points, etc.
6. **Please write comments on the ballot AS YOU GO.** Trying to save all of your comments until the end of the round is not very kind to your brain and will slow the tournament to a crawl. You aren't going to offend the students if you are sometimes not looking at them because you are writing comments **DURING** the performance/debate/speech.
7. Please submit your completed ballots within 5 minutes of the completion of the last performer/debater/speaker.
8. ALL JUDGES, please write a **Reason For Decision (RFD)**, as well as individual comments. Whether debate, duo or anything in-between, it is discouraging to get comments like "good, great, awesome" then be ranked last in the round with nothing to show why you lost the round.
9. **NO ORAL CRITIQUES.** Please do NOT offer oral critiques. It slows tournaments to a crawl and upsets some coaches as they are not privy to comments.
10. Grab some grub and/or something to drink and off you go to the next exciting round of competition. Tabroom should send you an email and/or text message as soon as you have another ballot. As soon as you get the electronic notification that means the next round is posted and ready to start. I will also have my GCHS students announcing when rounds start so you can check your electronic device.

Debate Judges:

Current Debate Topics:

Policy/Cross Examination Debate (5 minute rebuttals)

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Resolved: The United States ought to eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels.

Public Forum Debate

Resolved: The benefits of the United States federal government's use of offensive cyber operations outweigh the harms.

- "Flashing" (sharing arguments/evidence via flash drive) during prep DOES COUNT as prep time.
- Please remember, you are judging this round based on how well the debaters construct and communicate their arguments, NOT what you personally believe.
- Please leave a reason for decision so the debaters and their coaches understand what arguments swayed you to vote a certain way.
- In Lincoln-Douglas and Cross-Examination Debates, no debater may be tied in points and the winner must get more points.