

General Judging Instructions

Thank you very much for your help in conducting this tournament. Without your support, this valuable educational experience could not be offered to our students! Here is some information to help familiarize you with the event you are about to judge.

ELECTRONIC BALLOTS

- You can access your ballot by logging into tabroom.com, and clicking on your email address at the top of the screen. Your ballot will also show your assigned classroom. Please arrive at your assigned classroom 5 minutes before your debate is scheduled to begin. Press the “Start Round” button when the round starts.
- You must “submit” then “confirm” your ballot on the next page. *Your ballot is not submitted until you receive a confirmation message on the screen that you are finished.*
- Please submit the decision quickly after the round ends; you can enter comments (but not change your decision) later. This will help students improve.

AVOIDING CONFLICTS

If you know a student in a group you are about to judge, notify the tab room immediately.

FORFEITS

- If a team does not arrive within ten minutes of the “round start time,” please advise the tab room so that we can mark a forfeit for that team.

MONITORING THE ROOMS

This school has opened its campus to this endeavor. It is our goal that on Monday there will be no evidence of our having been here. So please...leave no trace!

- **Judges must be first to enter & last to leave** rooms. Students & observers must be supervised at all times. Future tournaments depend on it. Students entering a room before the judge forfeit the round.
- **Do not allow any food or drinks in the classrooms.** Ask students and observers to dispose of food outside the classroom so the ants do not visit over the weekend.
- **Do not allow the students to move furniture!** If it is absolutely necessary to move furniture in the room so students can speak, then ask students to *put the room back the way they found it*. Also, please watch to make sure nothing is taken from the room.
- **Do not allow students to erase teacher material on the whiteboard.** If students write their names on whiteboards, make sure they use the correct pens and erase afterwards. No writing at all on the “smart boards” found in some of our classrooms.
- **Non-disruptive guests are welcome** to observe each round.

Parliamentary Debate Judging Instructions

Parliamentary debate encourages extemporaneous or spontaneous argumentation between two debaters supporting a resolution and two debaters to arguing against the same resolution.

Topics: Debaters draw a new topic 20 minutes before each round. There are 3 types:

- **Fact:** The teams argue about whether the resolution is true or untrue.
- **Policy:** Government team shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem.
- **Value:** These topics typically concern morality, justice, and similar questions.

Format

First Government (Affirmative) Speech.....	7 minutes
First Opposition (Negative) Speech.....	8 minutes
Second Government (Affirmative) Speech.....	8 minutes
Second Opposition (Negative) Speech.....	8 minutes
Opposition (Negative) Rebuttal.....	4 minutes
Government (Affirmative) Rebuttal.....	5 minutes

A debater on the side not speaking may offer a **Point of Information** during the first four speeches (except the first and last minute of each speech). They should last less than 15 seconds. The speaker may decline a point of information. Points of information are NOT allowed in rebuttal speeches.

Points of Order (less than 15 seconds) in rebuttal speeches are for the sole purpose of protesting a new argument. You are expected to respond to a point of order, but make “take it under consideration.”

Other Rules

- During their 20 minute prep time, students may use computers for research, but may *not* access the Internet. They may receive assistance *only* from their partners.
- Only hand-written notes made during the prep time are allowed into the debate.
- Students may take notes during the debate.
- The next speaker must begin within twenty seconds of a speech ending.

Judging Criteria

In making your decision, it is critical to **put aside your personal views** and base your decision solely on the arguments presented by each team. Remember, teams do not choose their topics or their side. It is not the students’ job to change your mind, only to do a better job of debating than their opponents.

Consider:

- **Analysis:** How reasonably and effectively debaters analyze the topic and arguments.
- **Evidence:** How appropriately and efficiently the debaters support arguments with evidence.
- **Argumentation:** How directly and effectively the debaters respond to arguments.
- **Points of Information:** How relevant and effective were the questions and answers?
- **Delivery:** Did the debaters speak in an organized, pleasant, and understandable style?
- **Courtesy:** How courteous and respectful were the debaters to opponents and judges?

Enforcing the Rules: If a question arises about rules, and this handout does not answer it, please complete the round and ask tournament staff afterwards.