

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Rules

Round Definition

1. A Lincoln-Douglas debate round consists of one Affirmative debater debating against one Negative debater.
2. The Affirmative proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Negative opposes the Affirmative case.

Round Format

1. Affirmative Constructive (AC): 6 minutes
2. Cross-Examination of the Affirmative by the Negative: 3 minutes
3. Negative Constructive (NC): 7 minutes
4. Cross-Examination of the Negative by the Affirmative: 3 minutes
5. First Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR): 4 minutes
6. Negative Rebuttal (NR): 6 minutes
7. Second Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR): 3 minutes
8. Preparation time: 4 minutes per debater

Preparation Time

1. Each individual may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
2. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
3. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
4. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

Round Rules

1. Value debate: No plan may be presented by either debater. A plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation.
2. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during rebuttal speeches. Judges should only allow new responses during rebuttal speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.

Cross-Examination

1. After a debater (the respondent) concludes their constructive speech, the other debater (the questioner) shall cross-examine them.
2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments presented by the respondent.
3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Time-wasting is considered unethical.

Speaker Points:

- 30: Your performance in the round is likely to beat any debater in the field.
- 29: Your performance is substantially better than average - likely to beat most debaters
- 28: Your performance is above average - likely to beat the majority of debaters in the field.
- 27: Your performance is approximately average
- 26: Your performance is below average
- < 26: Rude or inappropriate behavior, total lack of preparation. Please note specifics on the ballot.