



Scorer Instructions (2024 Novice)

Writing Ballots

Speakers: Write a ballot for each speech given. **Do not write ballots for asking questions or making motions.** Select the speaker’s name from the drop-down, enter the speech topic and side, and give a score from 1 to 6, where higher scores are better. You should also write as many comments as you can **while the student is speaking** to identify what was done well and what needs more work.

Presiding Officer: Write one ballot for the Presiding Officer. Select the PO’s name from the drop-down and set the “Presiding Officer” toggle to Yes. Give a score from 1 to 6, where higher scores are better. You should write as many comments as possible **during the session** to identify what was done well and what needs more work.


Please type your comments directly into the electronic ballot.
DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LATER! Remember that you will be able to edit
your comments after the round, once your rankings are in.
Remember to save your ballots frequently!


Judging Criteria for Speakers

- Is the speech clear? Is it persuasive? Does the speaker demonstrate poise?
- Does the speaker respond to issues raised in the debate? Does the speech advance debate, or just rehash?
- Does the speech ramble, or does it develop? Is it easy to follow? Are the purpose and focus clear?
- How many sources are referenced? Are they credible? Does the speaker use logic to develop arguments?

Judging Criteria for POs

- Has the PO called on speakers in a manner that was fair and consistent?
- Has the PO used procedure correctly, and in a way that makes the chamber run smoothly?
- Has the PO kept control of the chamber, but without becoming autocratic or tyrannical?
- Has the PO conducted herself/himself with decorum and dignity?

Point Scale for All Congress Ballots

- **6** – Exemplary (reserved for particularly effective speeches and POs)
- **5** – Accomplished
- **4** – Competent
- **3** – Developing
- **2** – Emerging (justify with comments)
- **1** – Unacceptable (reserved for inappropriate conduct; must be justified with substantial comments)

Ranking Legislators

At the end of the session, **select and rank** (from 1 to 8, where 1 is best) the students who, based on your overall impression, contributed the most to the session. Enter your ranks on the “Rankings” tab. **The Presiding Officer’s contributions MUST be considered.** Ask yourself: *“Did the contestant’s actions enhance the chamber’s ability to conduct legislative business, or did his/her focus on the minutia of procedures and competitive framework detract from time for others to speak?”*

Please submit and confirm your rankings within 10 minutes of the end of the session.

Thank you for judging!