

Judging Instructions for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

IF YOU ARE ASSIGNED A LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE BALLOT BE PREPARED TO COMPLETE THE DEBATE, SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT DIGITALLY, GO BACK TO THE JUDGING ZOOM ROOM, AND RECEIVE A NEW BALLOT FOR ANOTHER DEBATE. **ELECTRONIC BALLOTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT THE END OF EACH DEBATE.**

Logistical Information

Logistics

Two competitors will arrive at the start of the round and two more will arrive shortly after the completion of the first flight. Start the round when your set of first scheduled debaters is there. Please make sure to double check the names and sides before beginning the round. Remember, the label on the ballot is correct.

Topic

Please see the “Debate Topics” handout for the topic that the students are assigned to debate.

Time Allocation

Time limits for LD are 6-3-7-3-4-6-3, with 4 minutes preparation time per debater.

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross Examination by Negative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross Examination by Affirmative	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

Please try to keep accurate times, both for fairness and educational value. In each speech, please give hand signals indicating the countdown of remaining minutes starting with four minutes (i.e. hold up four fingers) or for three in rebuttals. Indicate half a minute remaining by holding up a cupped hand in the form of a “C”, and then countdown the last ten seconds on your fingers. If there is no timer and you do not feel that you can simultaneously keep time and take notes during the debate, ask the teams to keep time for each other. Many debaters feel comfortable keeping track of time during the debate.

Flowing/Taking Notes

To help you decide which team to vote for at the end of the round, take as many notes as possible during the debate. “Flowing” is a note-taking method that both debaters and judges have found helps them to understand and follow the debate. This process allows you to see how a debater responds to the arguments of the previous speaker.

Computer Policy

Live internet is acceptable for accessing files on Dropbox, Cloud, or a similar system for electronic storage. Students should not find, cut, or site new evidence and sources found from the Internet during the round. Students will sign an honor code that they will not violate this policy.

(Please note that use of I-Pads, computers, jump drives, cloud storage, such as Dropbox, and email for the purposes of sharing speech documents is acceptable during Lincoln-Douglas Debates debates).

Making a Decision

Speakers should:

- Respond to opponent's positions/assertions/arguments.
- Use quality examples, some evidence, common knowledge, historical examples, and philosophical works to prove their arguments.
- Provide source citations for any evidence used in the round.
- Be courteous.

The affirmative should:

- Present arguments and evidence upholding the resolution.
- Provide a method of evaluating the round – can be a value and criteria, but may be something else.

The negative can:

- Negate the affirmative's position.
- Offer a value and case counter to the affirmative, or
- Offer a combination of both these things.

<u>Filling out the Ballot</u>

You should vote for the debater that best upholds his/her side of the resolution through effective analysis, evidence, delivery, reasoning and refutation. Please make sure to provide a reason for decision on your ballot.

Please take a few moments to make sure that you have completely filled in the ballot. We need you to select one clearly designated winner, speaker points (remember, you might be judging some "beginners"), a clear reason for decision, and constructive comments to help the debaters in this educational venture.

Indicate the winning debater by side (Aff/Neg) and by school in the space provided.

Assign speaker points according to the scale on your ballot. You may assign 10th of points but no ties are permitted.

Speaker point below 25.0 should be reserved for debaters demonstrating especially obnoxious and rude behavior and 30.0s should be reserved for the best speaker you will see in your lifetime. A judge may break ties by awarding speaker points in decimals by awarding for example 27.3 and 27.4.

*****The tabroom will NOT allow ties in points!!!!*****

Please note that our schedule does not permit time for lengthy oral critiques. Please keep feedback and comments under 10 minutes.

Thank you for your help!