

Debate

SECTION ONE

I. RULES

- A. Rules are modified from the Asian Parliamentary Debate Association. The rules of debate are known as the Standing Orders of the House. All members of the audience shall be considered to be members of the House.
- B. Any rule interpretations or changes must be finalized 30 days prior to the start of the Convention.

II. RULE EXCEPTIONS

- A. In cases of conflict between APDA and the IASAS Rules for Debate, IASAS Rules will apply (e.g. speech time limits).

III. ROSTERS

Each school must enter two teams. **Each team shall be composed of 3 students. [May 2024]** Rosters must be submitted one month prior to the tournament and include the following information:

- A. Name;
- B. Grade;
- C. Passport nationality;
- D. Birth date;
- E. Housing Preferences; and
- F. Team i.e. A or B (The “A” team will be the strongest, most experienced, and most senior students.

IV. ENTRIES

Each school must enter two debate teams.

V. SUBSTITUTION

Not permitted after competition begins.

VI. FACILITIES

Not applicable

VII. PROTEST

See “protest” section IX, debate: Tournament Management.

VIII. AWARDS

A. Championship Team

- 1 IASAS Traveling Plaque
- 2 Team Members – Champion Chevrons (6)
- 3 Team Members – Gold Medals (6)

B. Runner-up:

- 1 Team Members – Runner-up Chevrons (6)
- 2 Team Members – Silver Medals (6)
- 3 Semi-finalist (both teams) Bronze Medals (12).

- C. **The top three debaters with the highest cumulative points across the five rounds will be announced at the conclusion of the tournament to recognize their achievement as the event’s Best Speakers. These students will be awarded gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. [May 2024]** Debate points will be the deciding factor for the Best Speaker with rankings used as the tie-breaker. Points should reflect the rankings (Response points need to be factored into 60 – 80 points and reflected in the overall ranking. If the response brings the ranking up or down, the judges will reflect that in their comments.

SECTION TWO:
TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

I. GENERAL RULES

- A. A Section Director will be appointed by the Convention Director.
- B. No crossover participants between debate and forensics will be allowed.
- C. There will be no props permitted. Props are understood to include visual aids.
- D. Engaging in distortion and fabrication are acts of cheating, and as such are considered major violations of IASAS rules. These terms shall be defined as the following:
Distortion: To misrepresent a piece of evidence. (Source: Basic Debate, 4th Ed., pg. 43).
Fabrication: To make up a piece of evidence. (Source: Basic Debate, 4th Ed., pg. 43).
- E. In case of a cancellation, the team not showing will automatically forfeit the five rounds as a bye. The host school, however, may present a team (not necessarily from the host school, and which could be made up of students from two different schools), that will be available for other teams who would like to debate during their forfeited round. The bye will remain a bye, but the teams involved may choose to debate solely for practice.

II. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Convention Director and Section Director shall not be the debate coach or the coach of any other event.
- B. Because speakers need an audience for their performances, the Section Director should make every effort to schedule events in classrooms with an audience whenever possible. Regardless of the venue, if podiums are made available, then a small step should be accessible as the podiums are not all the same height and neither are the event participants.
- C. At the end of each round, the full results will be given to the coaches within approximately one hour.

- D. The semi-final and final rounds will be videotaped and copies pasted/shared with all schools.

III. CONTESTANTS

- A. Debate teams will be identified by school name and color. For example, the teams from Singapore American School could be SAS Blue and SAS Red.
- B. To ensure confidentiality, students will be identified by a number on all ballots, critique sheets, and schedules.
- C. At the first coaches' meeting of the convention, coaches will receive a list of their students and their numbers.

IV. ADJUDICATION

- A. All judges must be thoroughly trained.
- B. In all timed events, clocks should **not**, under any circumstances, be stopped.
- C. Coaches will receive completed critique sheets approximately one hour after each round. Coaches are prohibited from approaching the Site Director and/or judges regarding the comments on the critique sheets for the duration of the tournament.
- D. All judging materials for forensics and debate used by host school shall be distributed to IASAS schools 30 calendar days in advance of the convention.

V. JUDGES

- A. All judges must register and be familiar with **Tabroom**, the online application that will be used to adjudicate IASAS Debate. [May 2024]
- B. Each IASAS school is required to bring a dedicated, trained and experienced debate judge to the competition. While coaches can judge, no coach should judge their own team.
- C. Preliminary competition will be adjudicated by one judge; semi-finals and finals must be

adjudicated by five judges. If possible, no judge should be assigned to adjudicate the same team more than once.

- D. No person should be allowed to judge unless he or she has attended a two-hour workshop for debate. Workshops should include:

1. a trained facilitator
2. printed copies of event rules
3. a video/and or a live performance of a debate for practice critiquing (which does not include participants in the upcoming convention).

- E. Judges' sample packets should include:

1. a sample critique sheet
2. a sample ballot sheet
3. copy of the rules for that event
4. flowchart

Critique and ballot sheets will be completed on Tabroom. Accordingly, all of the necessary information for the critique and ballot sheets will be prepared and ready to go. [May 2024]

- F. Judges' sample packets will be delivered to the judges prior to the event. All judges will need to sign up and be familiar with Tabroom so that they can adjudicate the events using the online application, and have a tablet or computer at their disposal in order to use Tabroom. [May 2024]

- G. Judges will complete the ballots and adjudications sheets utilizing Tabroom at the conclusion of each round. [May 2024]

- H. Judges will refrain from discussing results with other judges before the ballot is officially submitted to Tabroom.

- I. **Implicit Bias:** We are all influenced by implicit bias or stereotypes that, when unchecked, influence our judging in ways that may negatively impact the students we are called to judge impartially. Before writing comments or making a decision, please take a moment to reflect on any preconceived notions you may hold that may impact your decision-making process and/or jeopardize the student experience. [May 2024]

VI. DEBATE TIMERS

- A. Timers will be trained and rehearsed before the convention. No person will be allowed to time unless he/she has been properly trained.

- B. Timers will be trained to handle timing equipment which will include a stopwatch or another approved electronic timing device, gavel, and/or time cards. If a tablet, an iPad or computer is being used, care should be taken to see that the item is fully charged and that the auto shutdown is disabled.

- C. Each debater shall have eight minutes to make his or her substantive speech. The time-keeper for the debate shall give a single audible signal (a knock with a gavel or similar instrument) at the end of the first minute and at the end of the seventh minute. During the time in between these two signals, points of information may be offered by the speakers on the other team. A double knock will be sounded at the end of the eighth minute, after which the speech should conclude within 20 seconds.

Reply speeches are four minutes long. NO points of information are allowed during reply speeches. After three minutes, the time-keeper will give a single signal knock to let the speaker know that they have one-minute left. A double signal knock will then be sounded after four minutes.

Speeches which extend more than 20 seconds beyond their allotted time may be stopped by the adjudicator.

During debate speeches, timers will display a new card every minute in ascending order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) until the final minute. Consequently, in addition to the knocks explained above, timers will follow this timecard protocol.

- D. Timers will display the time cards at all times.
- E. Timers will not display a new card until the time is reached.
- F. The clock should **not**, under any circumstances, be stopped until the debater has finished, even though the time cards may display TIME.
- G. Coaches cannot be timers for an event involving their students.
- H. A judge should not be a timer while judging.

VII. COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. It is the responsibility of each coach to:
1. **register and be familiar with Tabroom;**
 2. exercise mature judgment for guiding students in preparation;
 3. instill a feeling of friendly competition;
 4. teach by example good sportsmanship in both winning and losing situations;
 5. refrain from any harassment of judges;
 6. register legitimate complaints with the Convention Director.
- B. Coaches should notify the Section Director of any substitutions or drops at the coaches' meeting the night before the Convention.
- C. Due to scheduling problems, coaches may not increase the number of participants at the coaches' meeting the night before the tournament.

VIII. REPORTING OF RESULTS

- A. Full results from the rounds will be available to coaches via Tabroom as soon as possible after the completion of the respective rounds.
- B. In the event of a protest, results will be withheld until such time that the protest is resolved.
- C. In the event of a tie after the preliminary rounds, the delivery of results will be suspended until such time that the tie is broken and the 4 Semi-Finalist teams are confirmed.
- D. The list of Semi-Finalists will be posted within two hours after the final round robin debate is completed.
- E. Results from the Finals will be announced at the Awards Banquet.
- F. **For general public:** Results from preliminary and semi-final rounds will simply indicate which teams have advanced to the next round.

IX. PROTEST

- A. Protest must be filed in writing using the form, dated, signed, by the participant/s and coach, and given to the Section Director within one hour of the completion of the protested round.
- B. If two schools are involved in a protest, the coach from each school will be required to be present at a meeting to discuss the matter. The Convention Director will make the final decision on the matter.

SECTION THREE: TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

I. RULES FOR DEBATE

- A. **Procedure for Choosing and Announcing the Motions for Debate (topics):**
1. Each school will submit six topics for debate to the IASAS host school by November 1st.
 2. The thirty-six topics will be compiled in list form and emailed to all Activities Directors for distribution to coaches no later than November 7th.
 3. Coaches will rank their top ten topics in order – (10 being their first choice and 1 being their last choice. (1st choice will get 10 points, 2nd choice will get 9 points, etc. with their 10th choice getting 1 point.) Five of these topics should be designated as prepared topics, and five designated as impromptu. These top ten topics must be sent back to the host school by November 30th.
 4. The host school will tally the top 10 topics (5 prepared and 5 impromptu) and those will be used for the convention. From these topics, the impromptu motion that received the most total points will automatically be the semi-final motion (see below). Additionally, the prepared motion that received the most points will automatically become the motion debated in the finals.
 5. With regards to the prepared motion topics, the topic that received the second highest votes will be used in round 5, while the third

highest vote-getter will be used in rounds 1 and 2. For the impromptu topics, the motions with the second and third highest point totals will be used in rounds 3 and 4.

6. The three prepared motion topics for rounds 1 & 2, round 5, and the finals will be distributed to participating schools in early January.
7. Round 1 and Round 2 – Prepared motion (released in advance so that teams can prepare and use evidence, etc. from preparation they do before the tournament). Teams would have to debate both sides – one round as Prop, one as opp. Prep time for the prepared motion debates will be set at 20 minutes.
8. Round 3 and Round 4 – True Impromptu motions where no one sees them until they are released. These will come using the protocol outlined above. These motions will not be shared with teams so that they can be truly impromptu.
9. For scheduling purposes for Rounds 3 and 4, plan on at least five minutes passing time from when the topic is read to the preparation room and then ten minutes to get from the preparation room to when the debate will begin. One hour-fifteen minutes from when the topic is read to when the debate begins. Escorts can carry a stopwatch and begin time (1 hour 15 minutes) once the topic is read. Once the topic is read the debaters will have five minutes to be escorted to a private, supervised room (escort stays with debaters) where they will have one hour to confer and prepare for that round. Debaters will then have ten minutes to be escorted to their competition room.
10. Round 5 – Prepared motion (released in advance). Teams would need to prepare prop and opp – but would only debate as one side as determined by **randomization of the schedule/matrix. The prep time will be 20 minutes. [May 2024]**
11. Semifinals – Impromptu motion – where no one sees it until it is released. As indicated above, this would be the motion that

received the most total points from the top 5 impromptu topics but not shared with teams prior to the event. A coin toss prior to the prep time determines which team is prop and which team is opp. Prep time will be as in rounds 3 and 4.

12. The finals is a prepared motion debate on a topic that has been released in advance. Teams prepare both sides but only debate one side as determined by a coin toss prior to the prep time of 20 minutes.

B. Prep Time

1. Each team will be given a supervised preparation room.
2. Each team will have one hour to prepare for their impromptu topic debates and 20 minutes for the prepared topic debates.
3. The team can only bring one published book into the preparation room. This may be either a dictionary or an almanac.
4. Absolutely no electronic devices are allowed at all in the preparation room at any time.
5. Host schools will ask visiting schools their preference and will provide paper (examples: A3, A4, lined or unlined, or note cards) to be placed in the prep rooms and replenished each round.

C. Teams

Each team shall be composed of 3-5 students who will be prepared to debate either in favor or against the motion for debate side (further details noted in Section One/III Roster). There will be no cross-over delegates between debate and forensics.

D. Rounds

There will be five preliminary rounds. Rounds one and two are prepared motion debates with each team debating as the Prop in one round and as the Opp in the other. Rounds three and four are impromptu motion debates with Prop and Opp being determined by a coin toss. Round five is again a prepared motion debate with Prop and Opp determined by randomization of the schedule/matrix. Semi-final

rounds will be scheduled with teams selected on the basis of win-loss records. The semi-finals are impromptu motion debates with Prop and Opp determined by a coin toss. The winning teams in the semi-finals meet in the final round in a prepared motion debate with the Prop and Opp designated by a coin toss.

E. Competition

1. Each coach must designate an “A” (stronger) and “B” (weaker) team, and give that information to the Section Director one week prior to the tournament. In case a school withdraws one team after this notification, the designation of the other team will not change.
2. The Section Director will assign one team from each school to Group 1 and Group 2.
3. Group 1 shall consist of three “A” teams and three “B” teams. Group 2 shall consist of three “A” teams and three “B” teams.
4. Based on won-lost records, the top two teams in each group will advance to the semi-final round. The first place team in group 1 will debate the second place team in group 2. The first place team in group 2 will debate the second place team in group one.
5. (a) In the case of two-way tie, the decision goes to the winner of the debate in which the two teams met head-to-head.

(b) In the event of three or more teams being tied, compare the head-to-head results with the teams concerned. That is, compare the win-loss record of the tied teams compared only with the teams involved in the tie. NOTE: the results against the non-tied teams are not taken into consideration.

At this point, two cases can occur: (i) all the teams are still tied; or (ii) all the teams are no longer tied. If (i) occurs, then the speaker point tie-breaker from all preliminary rounds will take effect. If (ii) occurs, then a new ranking list has automatically been produced. If there’s still a need to break further ties, then the procedures under (a) and (b) should be repeated for those tied teams. That is, start the procedure again for

the teams that are still tied. Continue thusly until all the ties have been broken.

6. The winners of the semi-final round will advance to the final round.
7. A coin toss will determine the sides the teams will debate in the semi-final and final rounds.
8. Speech participants may watch other debates during their free time. This is to encourage support for fellow team members, not scouting.

F. Time Limits

The time limits shall be:

- substantive speeches – 8 minutes
- reply speeches – 4 minutes

Timers will indicate time elapsed on the time cards as follows:

1 minute, 2 minutes, 3 minutes,
4 minutes, 5 minutes, 6 minutes,
7 minutes, 8 minutes – STOP,
8:20 stand up

Debaters must stop within 20 seconds of the presentation of the STOP. If the speaker continues, the judges will instruct the debater to stop. This is the only time the judge should speak during a debate. Even if debaters make major errors, the judge should permit the debate to proceed. Judges must allow one minute between substantive speeches. The timer will state that “there is 15 seconds left” at the 45 second mark.

G. Format

Each team will have its own table at the front of the debate room for their three speakers to sit at. When making their speeches, the debaters must stand up and speak from the podium. Signs indicating *Proposition Speaker #1, #2, #3* and *Opposition Speaker #1 #2, #3* will be taped to the front of the tables to establish the speaking order.

The three speakers on each team will be given the opportunity to make their substantive speeches in the following order:

- 1st Proposition Substantive speech
- 1st Opposition Substantive speech
- 2nd Proposition Substantive speech
- 2nd Opposition Substantive speech
- 3rd Proposition Substantive speech
- 3rd Opposition Substantive speech

After the substantive speeches, both teams will have a 2-minute preparation period. The non-speaking members of each team may come forward to conference with their respective teams during this time

The debate will then continue with the reply speeches. These are four-minute summary speeches which can be made by either the first or second speaker on the team (but not the third). The adjudicators must be informed of which speaker will be making the reply speech before the debate begins. The opposition team will make their reply speech first. Thus, the debate concludes with:

- Opposition Reply speech
- Proposition Reply speech

H. Points of Information

During the eight-minute substantive speeches of each speaker, points of information may be made by the speakers on the other team.

The first and final minute of each speech shall be “protected time”, during which no points may be offered. However, in the intervening six-minutes, points of information may be offered any time by the speakers on the other team.

To offer a point of information, a speaker must stand up and say: “Point of information.” It is then up to the speaker holding the Floor (i.e. giving the substantive speech) to decide whether or not he or she wants to accept or decline the point. If he or she chooses to decline the point, the speaker who offered it must sit down immediately. However, if the speaker holding the Floor accepts the point of information, it should be made clearly and succinctly, taking a maximum of 15 seconds. The clock will not be stopped while points of information are being made.

It is entirely at the discretion of the speaker holding

the Floor as to whether or not he or she wishes to accept a point of information. It is, however, considered bad form in a debate if a speaker does not take at least one point of information during his or her speech, and adjudicators are likely to deduct marks from a speaker who takes none.

Points of information should be kept short and courteous. They should not be used as an attempt to bully or drown out the speaker holding the Floor. There are no points of information during reply speeches.

I. Communication during the debate

The three speakers on a team are allowed to confer with each other during the debate. However, they are not permitted to communicate with a teammate while he or she is delivering his or her speech, and then the conferring must either take place in very quiet whispers, or must be done by passing each other written notes.

Teams are required to have 3-5 debaters, though only three students will speak for the team in each debate. The researchers (the other 1 or 2 debaters) of each team are to sit in the audience during the debate and take on the role “researchers.”

During the two-minute break that falls after the sixth substantive speech and before the first reply speech in the debate, the teams’ researcher members come out of the audience and confer with the three speakers at their table. The intention of this is to allow them to give the reply speaker ideas about what they may wish to say. Researcher team members are allowed to talk to any of the three speakers on their team during this break, but they are not allowed to pass them written notes of any form. The researchers are allowed to bring written notes to the team’s table for discussion if they choose to, but they must take these notes away with them at the end of the two-minute break. Only the registered researcher members of the team may communicate with the speakers during the break.

Teams are allowed to appoint one of their researcher members or another member of the audience to give their speakers non-verbal time signals during their speeches)(i.e. clear and

obvious hand gestures to let them know how much of the allotted time for their speech has elapsed, or how much time remains). All other forms of communication between speakers and specific members of the audience (be they verbal, written or through gestures are not permitted during the debate).

For the duration of the debate, the three speakers on the team may not have in their possession any form of electronic device which might allow them to communicate with or receive information from outside the debate room. Devices such as mobile phones, pagers and computers must not be brought to the team's table. (If the speakers wish to have a timing device with them during the debate it must be a watch or stopwatch, and not a mobile phone.)

Debaters may make use of notes while speaking to remind them of the arguments they intend to make. (However, they should NOT write out their entire speech word-for-word and then read it – speakers who do this are likely to be heavily penalized by the adjudicators). Speakers are NOT permitted to use props or visual aids of any sort during the debate.

II. PROCEDURES FOR DEBATE: A GUIDE FOR COACHES & JUDGES

A. Summary of Speakers' Roles

Note: Every speech should have a clear introduction and conclusion. These should remind the audience and the judges of the team's Base-Line Argument and to briefly outline/reiterate the main points of the speech.

First Proposition Speaker

Defines the motion by:

- Explaining the meaning of the key words in the motion
- Stating the team's Base-Line Argument (the principles behind the team's case)
- Setting limits to the debate (optional – should only be done if the team thinks it will lead to a better debate)
- States what the team's main points are going to be (usually 3-6 points) and which member of the team will explain each of them.
- Explains the team's one or two strongest points.

First Opposition Speaker

- Rebuts the most obvious or important points made in the first Proposition speech.
- Explains the Opposition's Base-Line Argument (the principles behind the team's case).
- Outlines the team's main points (usually 3-5 points) and states which member of the team will explain each of them (first and second speakers only).
- Explains the team's one or two strongest arguments in detail.
- If absolutely necessary, issues a strong definitional challenge.

Second Proposition Speaker

- Rebuts the Opposition's key arguments and points out the most crucial flaws in their case.
- Further develops the team's case by explaining two or three main arguments in detail (the first speaker will have already said what these will be).
- If a definitional challenge has been issued, reasserts the Proposition's definition and defends the rationale behind it.

Second Opposition Speaker

- Rebuts the Proposition's key arguments and points out the most crucial flaws in their case.
- Further develops the team's case by explaining two or three main arguments in detail (the first speaker will have already said what these will be).
- If a definitional challenge was issued, the challenge should be further explained and defended.

Third Proposition Speaker

- May add one final main point to the team's case (optional).
- Rebuts the Opposition's case by refuting their assertions and examples and highlighting point-by-point the weaknesses in their arguments and their inability to deal with the Proposition's case.

Third Opposition Speaker

- Rebuts the Proposition's case by refuting their assertions and examples and highlighting point-by-point the weaknesses in their arguments and their inability to deal with the Opposition's case.
- This speaker should add no new arguments to the team's case.

Reply Opposition Speaker

- Sums up the debate for the team by identifying the key areas of clash between the two teams and showing how the Opposition's arguments in all of these areas have been superior.

Reply Proposition Speaker

- Sums up the debate for the team by identifying the key areas of clash between the two teams and showing how the Proposition's arguments in all of these areas have been superior.
- There should be no new arguments in either reply speeches.

III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEBATE JUDGES

Introduction: Adjudicators are given three criteria on which to assess the performance of debaters: Content, Strategy, and Style. At the end of a debate, each adjudicator will fill out a mark sheet. Every speaker in the debate will be given a score for content, strategy and style. These marks are added to give each speaker a total score. The adjudicator will award the win to the team with the highest number of speaker marks. The following notes aim to provide an idea of what adjudicators will consider when assessing the debaters' performance, both as an individual and as a team.

A. CONTENT

1. **Analysis:** Adjudicators expect debaters to be analytical; therefore, debaters should clearly explain the main points of their case and why their line of argument is stronger than that of the other team. While it is vital to present evidence to support a case, speakers should not present an argument which is merely a series of examples. Debaters should be rewarded if they demonstrate a perceptive understanding of the big issues in the debate, and are able to relate the smaller issues to that. Adjudicators will also look for analysis of points made by opponents, e.g. the ability to spot unsubstantiated assertions, logical flaws and contradictions in their answer.
2. **Evidence:** The citing of relevant examples or authorities to back up arguments is vital to a speaker's persuasiveness. The absence of such evidence will be penalized.

However, adjudicators will not penalize a debater who is guilty of a minor evidential flaw that is not recognized by their opposition and would only be apparent to someone exceptionally well-versed in the topic. It is also very important that every example used is clearly linked to an argument. If it is not clear how a particular example supports an argument, the adjudicators will not be able to give the debater full credit for it.

3. **Relevance:** All speeches should be germane to the motion and the way it is defined. Persistent irrelevance and the clear avoidance of certain issues will be penalized.

B. STRATEGY

1. **Roles of speakers:** Every member of a team has a specific role to fill. Adjudicators will be looking out to see if a speaker does his or her job. Those who do fulfill their role effectively will be rewarded. Those who fail to do so will be penalized.
2. **Teamwork:** A three-member team should work together to produce a consistent argument that flows from one speaker to another. Speakers will be rewarded for developing the team's line of argument and penalized for contradicting things that teammates have said.
4. **Structure and Timing:** A speech in a debate should follow a logical pattern so that it can be easily understood by the audience. The efficient use of time in a speech will be rewarded. Examples of inefficient timing can be seen when speakers make overly-long (and sometimes irrelevant) introductions, or where so much time is spent on one point, that other points are hurriedly covered in the last minute. Speeches which substantially exceed or under-run the allotted time will also be penalized.
5. **Understanding the issues:** Adjudicators will expect speakers to listen to what the other team has been saying and attempt to rebut their key arguments. In most debates there will be a few main issues in the

argument between the two teams, as well as a few trivial side issues. Speakers who focus on the main issues and do not get side-tracked talking about irrelevant points will be rewarded.

6. **Points of Information:** Speakers are obliged to offer and accept points of information during the debate. Speakers will be rewarded for answering points made by opponents effectively and for offering relevant points during speeches by the other team. Speakers who fail to accept and/or offer points will be penalized.

C. STYLE

1. **Delivery:** Adjudicators will consider a speaker's public speaking skills. This includes their fluency, audibility, variance of tone and ability to connect with and relate to the audience for example by establishing eye-contact. Speakers who project a sense of confidence and are clearly making an attempt to come across in a way which will be persuasive to an audience will be rewarded. While speeches can often benefit from the use of humor and gesture, they should not become pantomimic or reliant on gimmickry. Humor is only likely to be rewarded if it relates to the arguments in the debate and could not be considered personally insulting to members of the other team. The constant repetition of linking phrases (e.g. "Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen"), will often be penalized as it can become irritating and could be a sign that a speaker is trying to waste time because they don't have very much to say.
2. **Use of Notes:** Debaters will be expected to use brief notes to remind them of their arguments. The notes should not be so detailed that the speaker spends most of his or her time looking at the notes rather than making eye-contact with the audience and the adjudicators. Speakers who write out their speeches word-for-word and then read them out will be heavily penalized.

IV. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGING DEBATE

The following questions may be useful to judges in arriving at a decision:

A. Analysis, Argument, and Reasoning

1. Is the analysis and interpretation of the motion sound and reasonable?
2. Is the faculty of analysis exercised throughout, including following through the crucial issues?
3. Is the reasoning sound? Is it quick and agile?
4. Are fallacies avoided and detected?
5. Is there evidence of original thinking?

B. Use of Evidence

1. Does the debater show knowledge of the motion and its various phases?
2. Does he/she avoid both unsupported assertions and the continual citation of authorities?
3. Is there sufficient evidence without being wearisome?
4. Is evidence used effectively and honestly?

C. Ability in Point of Information Q & A

1. Is there a convincing vigor and spontaneity that comes from familiarity with all phases of the question?
2. Does the speaker use his/her time wisely?

D. Organization and Teamwork

1. Is the organization of the team case and the individual speeches clear?
2. Do the members of the team cooperate to present a unified constructive case and to assist each other in reply?
3. Which team regardless of individual "stars" constitutes the better-balanced group?

E. Attitude and Style

1. Does the debater speak with forceful, direct communicativeness? Does the use of notes interfere with his/her audience contact?
2. Does he/she adapt, in manner and content, to his/her opponents and the audience? Does he /she extemporize effectively?

3. Does he/she persuade as well as convince? Does he/she introduce variety and/or humor effectively?
4. Does he/she give the impression of genuineness and sincerity?
5. Does he/she seem at home on the platform, in posture and gesture?
6. Does he/she a pleasant voice? Does he/she use it intelligently? Does he/she speak distinctly?
7. Does he/she speak at a rate that is intelligible to his/her opponents and to the judge?
8. Is the speaker courteous to opponents?
9. Is he/she overly controversial? Is he/she cocky and bombastic?
10. Is he/she offensively sarcastic?

F. These “do’s” and “don’ts” supplement the judging criteria cited above:

1. Note the importance of arguments successfully established and maintained. One argument may go further toward winning or losing a case than half a dozen less significant ones. Furthermore, because debating is also a contest in public speaking, effectiveness in presentation cannot be ignored.
2. Vote for a team rather than an outstanding speaker. A debate team should be reasonably well-balanced group, though of course, such an arrangement is not always possible. Conversely, don’t vote against a team merely because one of its members is definitely inferior to the other.

3. Although you are a critic, remain one of the audience as far as a common-sense attitude is concerned. When it comes to weighing such matters as interpretation of the motion, ask yourself whether these are reasonable and intelligible to most of the people who sit about you.
4. In fairness to the debaters, and in fairness to yourself in making comments afterwards, you should have a system for keeping notes as the debate progresses.
But don’t become so engrossed in getting a full set of notes that minor details obscure major observations.
5. While listening, “look alert”. Concentrate on the debate. Don’t complete your ballot until the debate ends, even if you are certain about the winner. Furthermore, the critique sheets which you fill out are given to participants. As this sheet is often the only reaction to their performance that the students have to look over later, please be as helpful as you can in your comments. Use extra paper if necessary.
6. Observe the tournament rules and procedures, being especially careful that results of the debates are seen by no one but you. SEAL your ballot in the envelope before giving it to the time-keeper to return to the Tournament Headquarters. Also, please, try to be on time for your assignments. Your tardiness may upset the time schedule.