

SPEECH & DEBATE JUDGING TIPS

Thank you SO much for being willing to judge our competitors for the Yosemite Forensic League's tournament. Our kids could not have a chance to compete and show off their hard work without you.

Below you will find some general instructions and tips for how to judge our debate events and our speech events. We hope this helps you feel prepared!



SCAN ME

JUDGING DEBATE ROUNDS



When you're assigned:

Debate rounds may include the following events:

- Public Forum (2 vs. 2)
- Lincoln Douglas (1 vs. 1)
- Parliamentary (2 vs. 2, limited prep)
- Congress (10-12 debating a bill)
- Big Questions (1 vs. 1)

Things to consider:

- Strength of argument
- Strength of supports for arguments
- Organization of thought
- Ability to respond to opponents points
- Delivery/voice

1. Review your ballot.

- Look for the room you'll be judging in the top corner.
- Ballots will have space for feedback and deciding a winner. Each ballot is a bit different so take a moment to examine them.

2. Take notes while judging.

- Keep track of each debaters points throughout by taking notes on what is helping or hurting their case.

3. Fill out your ballot and return it to the Library.

- Leave feedback for both sides and write in a clear winner.
- Sign your ballot near the bottom even without a signature line.

JUDGING SPEECH ROUNDS

Speech rounds include the following event types:

- Original
 - Written by the student.
- Interpretive
 - A script performed.
- Spontaneous
 - Prepared right before speaking.

Things to consider:

- Organization of thought
- Delivery/voice
- Performance (for interpretive)
- Ability to hold your interest/attention
- Following time restrictions (30 second grace period, 15 for Impromptu and Extemporaneous Events)

When you're assigned:

1. Review your ballot.

- Look for the room you'll be judging in the top corner.
- Ballots will have student names and codes in the order they should speak.
- Look for double-entered students, with an asterisk by their name. They should be released after they speak to go to their next event.

2. Take notes while judging.

- Take a stack of comment cards to your room to give feedback to individual speakers.

3. Fill out your ballot and return it to the Library.

- Be sure you have no ties, and have used 1 - 7, with 1 as the best speaker.
- Sign your ballot near the bottom.



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