



CNDF (Canadian National Debate Format) Judging

All debates center around a topic, or **motion**, that establishes what is debated in each round. Debaters are divided into two teams, known as the **Proposition** (or “Prop”) which supports the motion, and **Opposition** (or “Opp”), which opposes the motion. Debaters alternate speeches with the following times and responsibilities:

CNDF Speaking Times	
1st Proposition (1st speaker): establishes the model (defines the terms of the debate) and presents the case in support of the motion	5 minutes
1st Opposition (1st speaker): provides a short rebuttal of the Proposition and presents the Opposition case; may disagree with the model if the terms are defined in a way perceived as unfair	5 minutes
2nd Proposition (2nd speaker): rebuts the Opposition case, reconstructs the Proposition case, and may provide a third contention	5 minutes
2nd Opposition (2nd speaker): rebuts the Proposition case, reconstructs the Opposition case, and may provide a third contention	5 minutes
Opposition Summary (1st speaker): summarizes the round into key ideas and resolves points of clash, explaining why they believe they won the round	3 minutes
Proposition Summary (1st speaker): summarizes the round into key ideas and resolves points of clash, explaining why they believe they won the round	3 minutes

Debaters can also ask each other questions, known as “**Points of Information**”, or **POIs**, during all speeches *except* for Summaries. They may **not** ask questions during the first or final minute of these speeches (known as **protected time**), but they may ask during the middle three minutes.

Writing a Decision

As a judge, you should assess students’ abilities based on the persuasiveness of their arguments, clarity of their communication, and teamwork. At the end of the round, the tournament will need your decision on which team won the debate, how many “speaker points” each debater received (between 75-95 with 85 being average), and a few constructive comments on what you felt the debaters did well and how they might improve. The judge orientation at the beginning of the tournament will give you further instructions on how to deliver your decision. Have fun!