

Full Name	School Association; if none please say "none"	Please explain your judging experience.	Explain what you expect to see in speaking events. What makes contestants stand out?	Explain what you expect to see in interp. events. What makes performers stand out?	Explain what you want to see in a debate round.	In a debate round, do you prefer traditional or progressive debates?	What speed is appropriate for debate rounds?	What do you want to see in rebuttals?
Abani Pattanayak	Tomball High School	Volunteer judge, will be doing second time	Open	Open	Open	Either format is acceptable	normal	Both
Adeline Hutson	None	I competed for three years at Cypress Woods HS and for two years at Texas State University, primarily in public address events. I have been judging consistently at tournaments since 2022.	I judge with the philosophy that speechwriting is half the battle in prepared platform speech events so I give serious consideration to how well-written a speech is. I also judge on the traditional performance criteria of memorization, gestures, projection, enunciation and whether there are natural, well-coordinated physical transitions from point to point. In limited prep rounds I also heavily factor in analysis and structure alongside presentation and time management. I also penalize students who go past their 30 seconds grace, as learning how to stay in time is an important aspect of the activity (this also applies to how I judge interp events).	I judge interp based on characterization, memorization, blocking, accent work (if applicable), projection and enunciation. I typically do not factor in the script as much as I would material the students would write themselves. I also factor in a student's intro and argument, especially in POI where it's a set part of the event, but even in other events a well-crafted and thoughtful argument will only work in a student's favor with me.	Thoughtful, well-crafted cases, strong counterarguments/rebuttals, and clearly communicated reasoning. I am less qualified for debate than speech, having primarily competed in speech, so competitors should go in knowing that while I may have more expertise than the average lay judge, I am not a flow judge.	Either format is acceptable	I prefer contestants to only go as fast as to where a lay judge could reasonably be expected to follow the whole debate. No spreading	What do you want to see in rebuttals?
Alaina Faulconer	Atascocita HS	I have been judging speech competitions this school year at since August. I have taken the level 1 judging courses on NSDA website.	I expect a well-organized speech with a clear introduction, structured main points, and a strong conclusion centered around a clear purpose. The speaker should use credible evidence or vivid examples to develop ideas thoughtfully. Delivery should demonstrate confident stage presence, strong eye contact, purposeful movement, and effective vocal variety. Overall, the performance should be polished, engaging, and leave a clear and lasting impression on the audience.	I look for a clear understanding of the piece and strong character development that brings the literature to life. The performer should demonstrate vocal variety, distinct character voices, effective facial expressions, and purposeful gestures to create vivid imagery. Emotional authenticity and smooth transitions between characters or scenes are essential. Performances should communicate a clear theme or message while fully engaging the audience.	I look for clear and well-structured arguments supported by credible evidence and logical reasoning. Debaters should directly respond to their opponent's points through effective refutation and clash, rather than repeating prepared material. Strong organization, clear signposting, and strategic time management are essential. I evaluate which side better supports their claims, addresses opposing arguments, and demonstrates persuasive impact throughout the round.	No Debate for me please :-)	A speed that I can understand and evaluate the cards being made.	No Debate for me please :-)
Alexis Nguyen	Klein High School	I have been a coach and judge for this current school year.	Having a unique and clear understanding of the topic	Making the piece unique and differentiating scenes and characters	Unique arguments that are clear. I do not like to see one side to continue to focus on one point even after they have realized the other side will	Either format is acceptable	No spreading personally.	Both
Allison Logan	Jersey Village	I have judged since I have left college in 2018	Organization, how passionate they are, themes, hooks	Correct emotion, creativity in how they perform the piece, characterization	I would not like to see one if possible	No Debate for me please :-)	Normal talking speed	No Debate for me please :-)
Alma Villarreal	none		https://www.tabroom.com/index/paradigm.mhtml?judge_person_id=168334	https://www.tabroom.com/index/paradigm.mhtml?judge_person_id=168334	https://www.tabroom.com/index/paradigm.mhtml?judge_person_id=168334	Traditional framework with voting issues	conversational speed	Both
Andrew gibson	The woodlands college park	Coach and judge for 5+ years	Solid structure and speaking	Characterization and purpose	Clash and structure	Traditional framework with voting issues	Speed is fine	Both
Andy Stubbs	The Kinkaid School	I have been judging and coaching for 10 years. I have coached and judged every format of debate.	Strong argumentation, good sourcing, an interesting or new perspective if it's a topic I've heard many times before.	Believable characterizations, good use of space, a strong cutting with an arc of some sort.	Good argument structure, weighing, good evidence paired with analysis about why it's preferable to the opponents' evidence	Either format is acceptable	Speed is fine	Line by Line
Angeles Carolina Arcea Gonzalez	Jersey Village High School	I have been a part of speech and debate for all 4 years of high school, and I also competed in tournaments such as NIETOC, the Harvard Invitational, and State	I feel that something that would make contestants stand out is how passionate they are about their topics, I also expect to see topics that not only are the speakers passionate about, but topics that they feel need to be heard and a change needs to be made	I expect to see plenty of funny and hard hitting pieces, the pieces that stand out for me are the ones that leave you thinking about the world around us.	No Debate for me please :-)	No Debate for me please :-)	No Debate for me please :-)	No Debate for me please :-)
Ashley Williams	Spring High School	Several SHS Charlie Brown Christmas tournaments, UIL middle school events	Relatable tone and nonverbal cues	Enhanced presence and preparation	Clear and purposefully explanations	No Debate for me please :-)	Not sure.	No Debate for me please :-)
Audra Langston	Grand Oaks	Over 20 years of coaching and judging	Genuine and conversational	In the moment and commitment to character	Good clash and clear impacts	No Debate for me please :-)	Conversational	Both
Belinda Ekrot	Klein Oak	1st year assistant	Maintaining eye contact, body communication, clear topic and it is evident	Logical structure and relevant data	No thanks	No Debate for me please :-)	No debate for me thanks	No Debate for me please :-)
Brandon Holmes	Cypress Falls HS	Light experience with previous events.	N/a	N/a	Clear voter issues	Traditional framework with voting issues	No speed	Big Picture
Brian Daniel	Klein High School	Coach (+2 years), Judged +100 rounds (all categories)	Accurate content selection based on event, clarity of speech, piece is memorized and blocked effectively. Eye contact with audience when applicable.	Accurate content selection based on event, clarity of speech, piece is memorized and blocked effectively. Eye contact with audience when applicable.	technical expertise, clear argumentation/strategy, signposting (when applicable), effective clash	Either format is acceptable	any	Both
Carolyn Jurick	Northland Christian School	I've judged this tournament the past two years, judged for TAPPS and UIL events over the past 20+ years	I expect to see a confidence in presentation, clear articulation in speaking, and bold choices being made vocally when presenting the piece. Knowing how to make eye contact with the room and being well rehearsed would make a contestant stand out.	I expect to see well cut pieces that are memorized and intentionally blocked. Performers who use the space to really perform their piece will stand out.	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Brent Johnson	Jordan High School	None	Not sure. It's my first time.	Not sure. It's my first time.	Well thought out arguments. Confidence	Either format is acceptable	Not sure. It's my first time.	Both

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Cassidy Bova	Cypress Falls	I've judged both speech and debate	Fluency, structure, sources	Literature choice, fluency, movement	Sources	Either format is acceptable	Clear and slow	Big Picture
Cecil Ellis	None	Retired coach, judge all events often	Well prepared, creative interpretation	Empathetic prepared performance, creative interpretation	Clash, creativity, moderate speed	Either format is acceptable	Conversational, moderate	Both
Charlie Barry	None	Cy-fair novice night 1-4 2023-2024, 2024-2025, cypress freeze 2025	I value well informed and intentionally structured pieces. Sources should be plentiful and writing should feel personal. I do not want to feel like I am listening to a fill in the blank. Humor is always appreciated but should not feel forced. I prefer a natural delivery to an over polished and rhythmic one. Unique topics or perspectives are very important to me. I enjoy seeing topics you care about. I want to feel like you're telling me this because you care, not just because you want a trophy.	Acting should be grounded and realistic unless an intentional choice. If there are two actors they should be in sync and on the same level. Use of time and space is more important than acting ability. The use of intentional silence is just as, if not more, important than speaking. Blocking should be well thought out and balanced. Items should have weight, layouts should be consistent, the world the characters live in should feel real even if I can't see it.	No debate please	No Debate for me please :-)	I don't know	No Debate for me please :-)
Chelsea Stone	CyPark	I have been judging different events for the last 2 years.	Contestants stand out in speech and debate when they combine authenticity, preparation, and presence. They communicate clearly and confidently, structure their arguments in a way that is easy to follow, and provide strong analysis that explains why their points matter. Exceptional competitors connect with their audience, remain composed under pressure, and demonstrate strategic thinking that makes their case compelling. Ultimately, what sets them apart is their ability to be polished yet genuine—leaving judges with a clear, memorable impression.	In interpretation (interp) events, I expect to see performers who transform literature into a powerful, engaging performance. Strong competitors clearly understand their piece and communicate its meaning through intentional vocal variation, facial expression, pacing, and physicality. Even though they often remain in one spot and may use a script, they create distinct characters, believable emotional shifts, and clear transitions between scenes. The performance should feel polished, purposeful, and easy to follow. Performers stand out when they go beyond simply "acting" and truly connect with the material. Exceptional interp competitors make strong, specific character choices, use controlled and dynamic vocal range, and demonstrate emotional authenticity without overacting. Their blocking is intentional, their timing is sharp, and their storytelling pulls the audience into the moment. Ultimately, standout performers make the literature come alive in a way that is memorable, moving, and meaningful.	In a debate round, I want to see clear, structured arguments supported by credible evidence and strong analysis. Debaters should present a well-organized case, clearly define key terms, and explain the significance of their claims rather than simply listing facts. I expect them to clash directly with their opponent's arguments—refuting, comparing, and weighing impacts in a way that makes it easy to evaluate the round. I also look for strategic thinking. Strong debaters prioritize their strongest arguments, explain why those arguments matter most, and provide clear voting issues at the end of the round. They should demonstrate active listening by responding directly to what was said, not delivering pre-prepared responses that ignore the flow of the debate. Equally important is professionalism. Debaters should show confidence, respectful engagement, effective time management, and composed delivery—even under pressure. Ultimately, I want to see students who are persuasive, analytical, and strategic while maintaining integrity and sportsmanship throughout the round.	Either format is acceptable	An appropriate speed in a debate round is one that balances efficiency with clarity. Debaters should speak quickly enough to present their arguments effectively, but not so fast that the judge cannot understand or accurately follow the discussion. Key points, evidence, and impact analysis should be delivered clearly and with emphasis. Ultimately, the best speed is one that maintains strong articulation and organization while adapting to the judge and format—because clarity is essential for persuasion.	Both
Cheryl Lynn Garrett	None	Coached at Westfield for 25 years and judge frequently	Organization, sources cited, beginning middle and end	Character development, logical ending	Clash, line by line, cites stated	Traditional framework with voting issues	Medium.	Line by Line
Cheryl Lynn Garrett	Cy Springs	I teach dual credit English (composition and British Lit) and I am used to grading college level oral presentations.	A student stands out to me when they understand and have researched their topic. Students are prepared to respond to other discourse on the topic.	They have an ability to read the audience and respond appropriately.	Lively back and forth where students speak clearly and understand/know their topic well enough to respond easily and enjoy what they are doing.	Either format is acceptable	Lively but students don't rush what they say. Speak easily and clearly	Both
Clement Agho-Otoghile	Kinkaid	Vast	Organization; warranted statements	Polish performance	Clash of warranted arguments	Either format is acceptable	Up to debaters - need to be clear	Both
Collin Goemmer	Tomball Memorial	I have been judging for the last 8 years across the local, state, national, and online circuits. I have 4 years of competitive experience and my experience as an educator helps me as a judge.	I like to see them engage their audience. Make me care. I also like to see an organized structure too.	Good blocking, distinct character changes, variety in tone	Clear arguments, do the work for the judge, extend your arguments.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Conversational	Both
Courtney Coffman	Northland Christian School	I've been coaching and judging debate for 14 years! I participated in LD and Extemp when I was a student, and am open to judging a variety of events/styles.	Students should use evidence to support ideas, speak conversationally, and should make sure to address the topic asked (extemp).	N/A	My tabroom judge paradigm has a pretty extensive paradigm about what I prefer to see in rounds! I'm fine with both traditional and progressive styles of debate.	Either format is acceptable	7 out of 10	Both

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Debbie Waddell	None	Coach 40 years	OO and Info: Topic should be original and creatively presented. Ideas should be warranted with a variety of sources and support devices. Style should be engaging and conversational. You don't need to walk across the room to transition between ideas. Facial expressions and gestures should be natural and enhance the verbal message. The opening and closing should be memorable. Extemp: Have a strong internal structure so I can follow the flow of ideas. Give warranted arguments with a variety of support devices. Talk to me.	Performances should have a storyline with an intro that engages the audience and gives context. I appreciate creative interpretation of the story, vocal and physical character development and commitment. Facial expressions, gestures, and performance decisions need to be meaningful and motivated. Nuance is preferred to over-the-top performances.	Clash. Clash. Clash. Challenge ideas. Don't just read generic briefs. Make arguments on case and plan. Ask good questions in CX and follow through in your speech. Weigh arguments and give me voters in rebuttals. Keep a flow so your ideas are organized and you have a big picture of the round. If you run theory arguments, you need to apply them to the round. If you run a K, it is your responsibility to explain it in the round. Don't try to speak faster than you can effectively communicate ideas. The round should not slow down to share case files. Prep time starts immediately. You don't need to tell me that your speaking time starts with your first word.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Don't try to speak faster than you can effectively communicate ideas.	Big Picture
Debby J Haren	None	Longtime coach and judge,	Organization, evidence, conversational delivery, accuracy	Quality material, connection to audience, polished performance, sincerity	Clash, evidence, flow coverage, impacts, framework	Traditional framework with voting issues	Conversational speed	Both
Deepika Karangula	Jordan High School	Light judging	I like to see individuality and your personal experience within your speeches.	I like to see big performances with meaningful impact.	I like to see focused components and logical arguments.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Medium speed, no spreading.	Line by Line
Dillon Rogers	Atascocita	12+ years of judging Speech and Debate events as a contract judge and school judge.	For platform events, I want to learn something. Ensure that your speech is organized and easy to follow.	For interpretation events, I want to be able to step into the world of your main character and understand their struggle or dilemma. Please do not provide me a trigger warning.	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Dodie Spencer	The Woodlands HS	I have only judged this year as this is my first year as assistant coach for TWHS. I have judged WSD, LD, PF, Extemp, and a few other speech events randomly.	clarity and passion	A strong understanding of their literature and bring it to life through clear, intentional vocal and physical choices. Standout performances demonstrate emotional authenticity, distinct characters, purposeful pacing, and a strong connection that fully engages the audience. The most memorable performers make the story feel real while honoring the author's intent.	well-supported arguments and strong organization, refutation, and clash throughout the round-NO spreading and prefer them not to run theory I evaluate each event differently. I tend to gravitate to what I interpret as the purpose of the debate's intended style when evaluating the round. That is to say, I evaluate the events differently, as they each function differently and have different purposes/objectives. I won't consider disclosure as a voter I am a stickler for standing during speeches and in cross examination. This is the formal and professional part of this activity. Please do not take it for granted. The only time sitting is appropriate is during the grand cross in PF. Policy: I evaluate all argument types when presented, so long as they are presented effectively. LD- I lean more traditional, in that framework is an important part of LD. I am open to progressive arguments if they are presented well and properly. The structure of these arguments are important and you must signpost well. PF: I evaluate more traditionally and put heavy emphasis on professionalism and personal character (i.e. Don't be mean), especially in crossfire.	Traditional framework with voting issues	moderate-no spreading	Both
Dustin KAy	Tomball Memorial	Coaching and Judging for the last 12 years.	I first look for good structure within the speech. I look for attention given to the organization of claims and data. Proper citation of valid source material is essential to promote ethos of the speakers personal perspective. Additionally, smooth presentation of all sources is a small technical detail I weigh. The tone of a speech should not be one note. There should be variation in style to drive the emotion and level of importance of the material presented.	I consider a structure where teaser, intro, piece is the standard flow of performance. The introduction must bridge the gap between the teaser and the primary presentation by unveiling the importance and merit of the literature. For me, this is key, even in HI I look for relevance and merit. To me, this is what sets interp apart from acting. This is also an important factor when considering the competitiveness of the selection. I expect the performer to have a deep understanding of the authors purpose and message. Blocking when needed must be creative. I put a heavy emphasis on the small technical details. For example, POI: binder blocking and smooth transitions between pieces in the program. The transitions should melt together, not shift abruptly. HI: popping and character differentiation are important. DI: Character depth and use of space. Duo: Coordination, characterization, and synchronization.	If I cannot understand it or catch it, then I cannot flow it. If I cannot flow it, I cannot evaluate it.	Traditional framework with voting issues	It depends on my ability to understand the speaker. Fast is ok. Spreading gets bad when the individual does not do it well and relies on the "document drop" for others to understand the argument. If I cannot understand it or catch it, then I cannot flow it. If I cannot flow it, I cannot evaluate it.	Both
E Cook	Jordan	6+ years of judging debate	Quality of speaking/presentation ability, originality in topic	Unique blocking, originality in topic	Clean, well impacted out rounds. Paradigm on tabroom for more info	Either format is acceptable	any	Line by Line

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Edison Sanon	None	I am a former coach in New York and New Jersey. I have qualified a Humorous and a US Extempo to NSDA with a finalist and a semifinalist in USX. In Texas I have been a hired judge off and on since 2014. I have judged at several Invitationals including the final congress chamber at Harvard as well as the semifinals at NSDA.	I expect preparation and to have you perform like you did in practice. I want you to be confident in what you are saying.	In interp you are playing characters and when you perform in a way that I forget that a high school kid is speaking in front of me then you will be successful	In PF I look for your work in cross examination and rebuttals. If you can poke holes in your opponent's case and use it in rebuttal. You will win. I am not the traditional debate judge due to my experience in speech primarily. I tend to treat a debate round like a speech round but I still use the cases presented to me to make a decision.	Either format is acceptable	As long as I understand you, you will be fine.	Both
Elizabeth Walker	none	I've judged on and off for the last two years in speech and interp events. I have a degree in Theatre Performance and a minor in Creative Writing, and enjoy judging events where my feedback as a performer and writer can aid students.	In speeches, I look for a good flow and follow through on points. Contestants stand out when they balance a clear, concise analysis with an engaging and personable manner. My ideal contestant keeps the speech accessible while balancing substance with audience engagement.	For interp events, I look for a performer to be engaged with the material. Performers stand out when they convey a connection to the text, whether that be physically, vocally, or through craftsmanship of the piece. My ideal performer interacts with their piece in an intelligent and creative way, while helping the audience connect with them.	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Emily Crawford	Katy high school	5th year coach, 4 year competitor, 4 additional years judging	Solid structure/organization, intentional platform movement	Clear character distinction, cutting and flow makes narrative sense, intentional blocking	Solid clash, clear voters, no spreading	Either format is acceptable	Medium to slow. Debate is a communication event. If you are spreading or I require your speech doc, you're not communicating	Both
Emmanuel Quiroz	KIPP Texas	I was a contestant in high school and have judged the entire 2025-2026	Engagement and story telling, it has to land somewhere. There has to be direction.	Their unique outlook and their argument for their stance is where I hope to see the performers come to live.	Respect above all.	Either format is acceptable	10-12 mins	Line by Line
eric emerson	the kinkaid school	yes	n/a	n/a	see tabroom philosophy	Either format is acceptable	n/a	Both
Eric Porter	None	Coach 20 years / TFA Member Hall of Fame/ TFA. Duet /HI/DI champion coach Nationals DI National champion coach / Ull State Coach in Prose Poetry Congress	Speaking ability / organized speeches / creative choices / clarity in analysis / info strong visuals	Emotionally connected pieces ; with maybe a little humor / pieces suited to students / clean blocking / answer the questions who what and where (who are you talking to / what is your objective and where are the characters	NA	No Debate for me please :-)	NA	No Debate for me please :-)

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Eric Schwerdtfeger	Dulles	Lots of Policy and LD, Some PF and WSD.	Organized speeches with a coherent worldview. Claims are supported by evidence cited from reputable sources. Foreign sources > US sources, our journalistic institutions are largely compromised by fear of retribution from the Trump administration and the Profit motive.	Variation in blocking, pace, pitch, etc.	<p>Respect for Others - Don't be a jerk. Use people's preferred pronouns, provide accommodations when they are requested, be prompt and ready to go at start time, and be mindful of the power dynamics in the room. I will defer to how the aggrieved party wants to handle the situation should an issue arise. If I'm not picking up on something, let me know.</p> <p>Investment - Apathy sucks. Caring about stuff is cool. Whether you're more invested in saying stuff that matters or chasing competitive success, I just want to see that you care about some aspect of the thing you are giving up a significant amount of time to do. It should be evident that you are following the news and reading books related to the topic and/or your literature base. Take notes during feedback and ask questions.</p> <p>Transparency - I believe that disclosure is generally good, as it enables people to read, think and prepare better (obvious exception for when it raises safety issues, which is more likely in the current climate). Don't be a jerk about it with people who don't know better. Shiftiness and lying are bad. CX is binding. If you are reading arguments that implicate the desirability of transparency, that is perfectly fine. This is just a starting point. In PF, please share evidence before your speech starts. That is the norm in every other event, and it should be the norm here too.</p> <p>Flowing - Do it. Preferably on paper. Definitely not in your opponent's speech document. If you answer a position that was in the doc but was not read, your speaks will be capped at 26.5. There is no flow clarification period. If you're asking questions, it's CX or prep time.</p> <p>Clash - Identify central questions, compare warrants and weigh. Rehighlights are fine, but your speech should explain why it matters. Do not just say they dropped/conceded something, explain why it matters. I am not sympathetic to strategies that attempt to dodge clash. Specific links, counterplans, topicality interps, etc. are way better than generics. K links on the negative should quote the aff and/or CX answers.</p> <p>Line by Line Organization - The negative team sets the order for arguments on the case page. The affirmative team sets the order on off case positions. Number or label your arguments as you go down the flow. Overviews are fine, but your whole speech should not be a blocked out overview with no attempt at line by line argument/evidence comparison. Jumping around between pages is extremely annoying and will impact speaker points.</p> <p>Debating the Case - Both the affirmative and negative teams should center the case. If you're aff, the case should go first. If you're neg, don't treat the case page like an afterthought, and certainly don't focus solely on the impact level. Contest uniqueness, link, internal link, and solvency claims. Making the case page K 2.0 with nothing but cross-applications is both boring and unstrategic.</p> <p>Judge Instruction - The top of the 2NR/2AR should be what you want my ballot to say. Be assertive. Tell me how I should be thinking about arguments and their interactions. Tell me what matters most. When Neg, anticipate 2AR arguments, prime me for skepticism, and tell me which lines to hold. When Aff, assume I'm voting Neg, figure out why I would vote Neg, and beat that ballot.</p> <p>Complete Arguments - Arguments have a claim, warrant, and implication. I will evaluate arguments, not isolated claims. If you make a warranted claim without explaining the implication for the debate, you invite intervention.</p>	Either format is acceptable	As long as students are clear, speed is not an issue.	Line by Line
Gabriel Aina	None	Nsda DI finalist 2025	The continuation of youth voices	Good acting	A good round	No Debate for me please :-)	N/a	No Debate for me please :-)
Gary Boeger	none	judge frequently	good topic, well researched, fluid delivery	quality material	solid refutation and evidence. little dropping of points, clear RFD's	Traditional framework with voting issues	Lets just say, I dont get on speech drop	Both
Gay Hollis	Taylor	HS and College competitor in policy and IEs; 40 years coaching all events	In any speaking event I evaluate analysis of the subject, organization, and presentation skills in that order. I expect clear, concise topic analysis with qualified sources in an easy to follow, standard organizational structure.	I am all about characterization. There should be motivation for movement. Cuttings of selections should tell a story that has a clear beginning, climax and end.	Analysis, evidence, and refutation in any debate event. Weigh arguments in rebuttals. I vote on the arguments on the flow. Be nice to each other. I have little patience for rudeness. If you have questions, ask.	Either format is acceptable	Very, very slow. I don't judge a lot anymore.	Both

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Greg Mayo	None	Retired Coach-Circuit Judge	Basic speech format/organization, sources where applicable; Extemp - question answered; Oratory - same as above, speech purpose achieved; Info - same as above, information that teaches and/or enhances one's subject knowledge. Visuals optional.	DI / HI - Characterization, character voice where/ when applicable, proper blocking and NV movement to enhance performance, author's intent through performer's interpretation, Dramatic or Humorous as the event requires. Duet Duo - same as above but selection may be humorous or dramatic, Duet-proper use of chairs, if used. Duo-No direct eye contact with partner.	Paradigm on tabroom.	Traditional framework with voting issues	No spreading. I am "Old School." Debate is effective persuasive communication.	Line by Line
Gregory McGee	James E Taylor High School	Coach for over 20 years	Original/accurate content; confident conversational speaking style.	Good piece selection, solid characterization, realistic emotion, range of emotions.	Solid clash, good analysis, clear speaking.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Average speed.	Both
Heath Martin	None	Lots	Public speaking- good content means sound structure and smooth transitions. Oratory is not an interp event. Info does not mandate visual aids.	Good stories, character development over tech and tricks always. I hate sound fx.	Good argumentation requires thoughtful research and logic. Speed is ok - relatively speaking. I am ok with more progressive rounds or old school traditional rounds as long as debates are structured, understandable and cordial.	Either format is acceptable	I can flow- but it's been a minute.	Both
Hemant Rao	Jordan High School	Parent Judge	Main message, Clarity in thought and logical structure, strength/quality of content, Tone, Confidence, Pace, Composure.	Main message, Clarity in thought and logical structure, strength/quality of content, Tone, Confidence, Pace, Composure, Actions, Uniqueness	Clear claims, Strong reasoning, Evidence, Addressing the resolution directly, Refutation, Rebuttal	Traditional framework with voting issues	Any	Line by Line
hira evelyn silsby haseeb	none	previous tournaments!	confidence & volume	cadence and confidence	respect for the other debater, conscientiousness of time, line by line	Either format is acceptable	any speed but it needs to be coherent	Line by Line
Jameel Sneed	Conroe High School	2nd Year judge.	N/A	N/A	Traditional Debating where competitors stick to techniques and tactics respective of the format they are in.	Traditional framework with voting issues	So long as I can make out and flow what is being said.	Both
Jaylon Bolden	None	Ex competitor / coach	Vocal energy / coherency	Full body engagement / technique	Respect / no dropped points	Either format is acceptable	As long as I can comprehend	Big Picture
Jazmine Alejos	Jersey Village HS	I have been judging for over nine years now. I am open to judging anything that is given to me.	Speaking events like extemporaneous. I want to see all your points organized with a conclusion. Make sure to state your points at the very beginning, that way your judge can follow along with you. As for sources, please refrain from using the obvious CNN, New York Times. Yes, they are somewhat good, but there are more reliable sources out there.	I am big on characterization and transition. If your transition to different scenes is not good, then your piece is also not running smoothly. Remember we (judges and audience) need to see the setting and energy of each scene of your piece. Characterization is hard to master, especially if you have more than two characters. Just keep in mind that each character must be noticeable to the eye but carry each trait for these characters. The last thing I also look at is the piece overall, does it make sense, does it flow good, is there a building bridge to the climax, is there energy/mood or is it just mono/dull (meaning steady or boring). Make sure you set the energy right from the beginning to capture your audience attention.	Depending on what I am judging whether it be LD, PF, CX, WSD or even Congress. Makes sure you are loud and clear. LD: I am looking for value and criterion to make sure that your argument wraps around those two at all times. Role of the Ballot: A role of the ballot argument will only influence how I vote on pre-fiat, not post-fiat argumentation. It is not, therefore, a replacement for a framework, unless your entire case is pre-fiat, in which case see "pre-fiat critics". A role of the ballot must have a warrant. "The role of the ballot is fighting oppression" is a statement not an argument. You will need to explain why that is the role of the ballot and why it is preferable to "better debater". Please make the warrant specific to debate. "The role of the ballot is fighting oppression because oppression is bad" doesn't tell me why it is specifically the role of this ballot to fight oppression. I have a low threshold for voting against roles of the ballot with no warrants. I will default to a "better debater" role of the ballot. World's Debate: I am looking for you to convince me in fact for all debate I do not like theory. I know at times it can be hard since it can also be an impromptu round but just give it your best. Quick tip for World's Debate at times the best sources you can use is your own knowledge. PF: I default to an "on balance" metric for evaluating and comparing impacts. I will not consider unwarranted frameworks, especially if they are simply one or two lines asserting the framework without even attempting to justify it. And, yes, I understand theory. No, I don't want to hear theory in a PF round. No, I will not vote on a theory argument that goes for all debate.	Traditional framework with voting issues	speed has been an issue in debate with many debaters mumbling. Therefore, I prefer a normal (slow) speed. That way I can be in the same page with the contestant.	Both
Jeffery Flores	None	I've been coaching for a number of years	Strong speaking style, clear message	Clean blocking and a sensible grasp of the story	Framework debate	Traditional framework with voting issues	Lay	Both

Full Name	School Association; if none please say "none"	Please explain your judging experience.	Explain what you expect to see in speaking events. What makes contestants stand out?	Explain what you expect to see in interp. events. What makes performers stand out?	Explain what you want to see in a debate round.	In a debate round, do you prefer traditional or progressive debates?	What speed is appropriate for debate rounds?	What do you want to see in rebuttals?
Jennifer Malloy	York Junior High	I am a speech and debate teacher with approximately two years of experience judging both middle school and high school speech and debate tournaments. I approach judging from an educator's perspective, with an emphasis on fairness, clarity, and student growth. In debate rounds, I evaluate arguments based on what is presented in the round and flow accordingly, prioritizing clear explanations, direct clash, and impact weighing in final speeches. I am comfortable with moderate speed, but clarity is essential, as I cannot evaluate arguments I cannot understand. I value well-structured cases, relevant and properly cited evidence, and frameworks that are clearly explained and consistently applied. Professionalism and respectful conduct are important to me and are reflected in speaker points. In speech events, I prioritize strong organization, effective delivery, meaningful content, and authentic audience connection. In interpretation events, I value clear storytelling, emotional control, and intentional performance choices, while in original events I appreciate creativity supported by strong structure and a clear purpose. Speaker points and ranks are assigned consistently based on clarity, content, strategy, delivery, and engagement. I strive to provide constructive, specific feedback that highlights strengths and offers actionable suggestions for improvement. Overall, my goal as a judge is to create a fair, respectful, and educational experience that supports student growth and rewards effective communication.	I expect contestants to demonstrate preparation, purpose, and clarity. Each performance should clearly reflect the intent of the event—whether it is informative, persuasive, interpretive, or extemporaneous. Speeches should have strong organization, a clear thesis or central message, and no um's, uh's, or like's.	In interpretation events, I expect intentional storytelling. Every performance should clearly communicate who the characters are, what they want, and why the moment matters. Whether it is Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo, or Poetry/Prose, the performer's job is to bring the text to life—not simply read it. I look for clear character differentiation. Each character should have distinct vocal qualities, physicality, and emotional perspective. Changes in tone, posture, facial expression, and pacing should signal shifts naturally and consistently.	First, I expect clear organization. Debaters should signpost their arguments, clearly label contentions, and guide me through the flow. Second, I look for clash. I want to see direct refutation, which will clearly identify your opponent's argument. I also want to see strong rebuttals. Third, I expect warrants and impact analysis. Claims must be supported with reasoning and, when appropriate, credible evidence. Simply stating an argument is not enough—debaters must explain why it is true and why it matters.	Either format is acceptable	Clear over fast, always.	Both
Jenny Rodriguez	none	I competed in speech and debate for four years in high school, where I was a state finalist at the state championship and competed at tournaments including UT, Harvard, and UIL. I continued competing in speech and debate at Lone Star College—North Harris, and during that time judged on the high school circuit for two years. While attending the University of Texas at Austin, I served as a speech and debate judge, and while living in Washington, D.C., I coached speech students. These experiences give me a strong understanding of both competitive expectations and effective coaching and evaluation.	In speaking events, I expect to see clear organization, a well-developed thesis, and strong use of evidence and examples. Effective speakers demonstrate confidence, vocal variety, appropriate pacing, and purposeful use of gestures and eye contact. What makes contestants stand out is their ability to connect authentically with the audience, present original and thoughtful analysis, and deliver their message with both clarity and emotional control. The strongest performances balance technical skill with genuine engagement and a clear sense of purpose.	In interpretation events, I expect to see a clear understanding of the text, strong characterization, and intentional use of voice, facial expression, and movement. Performers should demonstrate control of pacing, timing, and transitions, and make purposeful choices that enhance the meaning of the literature. What makes performers stand out is their ability to bring the text to life with authenticity, emotional depth, and consistency in character, while maintaining strong audience connection and a clear narrative arc.	In a debate round, I want to see clear advocacy, well-structured arguments, and strong clash between the two sides. Debaters should present a coherent case with a clear thesis, supported by credible evidence and logical reasoning. I value direct engagement with the opponent's arguments through effective refutation, impact comparison, and weighing. The strongest rounds demonstrate organization, strategic decision-making, and professionalism, with debaters who are responsive, respectful, and focused on persuading the judge through clarity and analysis rather than speed alone.	Traditional framework with voting issues	An appropriate speed for debate rounds is one that prioritizes clarity and accessibility over sheer pace.	Both
Jeremy Garcia	Cypress Falls	Familiar with debate formats and speech	Structure, format, sources	Choice in literature, fluency	Weighing voter issues	Traditional framework with voting issues	Low	Big Picture

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Joseph Genovese	Kingwood High School	I was a competitor, state and national qualifier in 2001-2005. I am currently the coach for Kingwood HS. I was also a tournament judge for a few years (05-08) along with some coaching intermittently over the last 20 years. I am best at speaking and debate events, but I am more than capable of doing interp events.	Lack of fluency breaks, organization in their speech, standards of speaking such as walks and quality gestures. Students need to have depth to their speeches and be able to source the material they are referencing. Verbal and non-verbal communication are both important.	Expression of character and tapping into the characters being performed. A good interper can change their voice, their facial expressions, their movements with the piece. A great interper makes you forget that they are doing a piece and the performer takes on being the character.	Clash and argumentation is more important than technicality wins. It is not to say that technical aren't important in rounds, but at the end of it all, this is a debate. Clash is vital. Crystallization is important. Speaking and presentation skills are important. And the goal should be to win the argument in the confines of the style of debate that they are participating in.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Speed is overrated and a waste if speed sacrifices argumentation. I can handle some speed, but reading fast isn't a valuable skill. Arguing quickly, making clash, connecting to the overall argumentation of a round is.	Both
Kaleb Adams	None	10 years plus	Knowledgeable, articulate, passionate	Poise, knowledge of content, zeal	Children realizing how not to play the topics are	Either format is acceptable	Moderate	Both
Kasey Willeby	Cy Woods		Listed on my tabroom paradigm.	Listed on my tabroom paradigm.	Listed on my tabroom paradigm.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Moderately fast	Both
Kathryn Naughton	The Woodlands High School	Houstonfest and Texas German State Competitions (9 years)	Confidence, innotation, and voice projection	Facial expressions, innotation, vocal projection	Na	No Debate for me please :-)	NA	No Debate for me please :-)
Keegan Teza Sikazwe	Cy Park	Watching Debate/Speech Tournaments as well as judging for the past 3 months.	Authentic and casually making your point without it sounding overly rehearsed as if you are striking objectives from a checklist.	Bring your topic to life using the performers own voice and breathing life into it by using their personal experience; also by doubling down and not being afraid to express the personality of the performer in their performance.	Accurately describing your points and rather than basing your opinions upon others opinions using facts and accurate data. As well as dissecting the opposing viewpoint to see how they compare and contrast.	Either format is acceptable	Slower Speech for emphasis and allowing the listeners to absorb the information presented. The usage of fast speech for making a point but if a performer speaks rapidly the entire time parts of their point become lost; turning it from making a point to how you make the audience feel.	Both
Kelvin Douglas	George Bush H.S.	I've been judging Speech and Debate events since 2007	Originality, confidence and creativity	The same: originality, confidence and creativity	Critical thinking and organization	Critical/Theory arguments	Clarity	Big Picture
Krista L Nix-Buckner	Katy HS	Former coach, CX, LD, PF, IEs	Analysis, smooth speaking	Naturalistically embodied characters, clean tech	Clash, line by line, weighing the round	Either format is acceptable	6 out of 10	Both
Kyle Martin	Channelview	Previously judged both as a contract judge and a school judge for policy debate and some speaking events	Walking between transitions, good hooks, and a clear "point" to the speech, I should feel more informed OR persuaded toward something	Good use of area, I should be able to picture the competitor on a stage, and if access to a book is allowed (POI) that should be used to enhance the performance.	I want to see clear and logical arguments, generally I lean toward a traditional style of debate, but I'm happy to vote for progressive arguments/teams if they've presented stronger arguments.	Either format is acceptable	3/4 to 4/5 Competitor's max speed, I do think being able to use less speed can show your arguments are better, but speed is usually more beneficial to strengthen arguments using more evidence.	Both
Landon Coutee	none;	I have judged most recently at the 2025 UIL regional competition, as well as several times at grand oaks events over the past three years	I expect to see a contestant that is able to have a strong hook when introducing the topic to me and then providing a clear organization as to how they are going to answer their question. I look for them to follow this organization if they give one, or explain their thoughts in a logical manner if they do not explicitly describe one. I look for the contestant to provide interesting, thought-provoking ways to prove the stance they choose to take about the question. Lastly, I look for the delivery to have intonation and volume variety to accentuate points the speaker is trying to make, as well as their posture and eye contact.	In interpretation events, I expect contestants to clearly develop characters/storylines through vocal variation, facial expression, and purposeful physical movement. I expect performers to demonstrate a strong understanding of the piece's overall message and to structure their performance in a way that builds emotionally and feels intentional. I look for clear character differentiation and smooth transitions between moments or perspectives. What makes performers stand out is their full commitment to the emotional world of the piece while maintaining control and precision. Strong performers make the literature feel authentic and impactful rather than exaggerated or unfocused.	As a former WSD debater, I value clear structure, clash, and comparative analysis in a debate round. I look for teams to clearly frame the round, define the key issues, and provide a logical path for evaluating the debate. I expect debaters to directly engage with their opponents' arguments rather than speak past them, and to weigh impacts in a way that explains not just what matters, but why it matters more. Strong debaters stand out by being strategic and organized, collapsing to their best arguments, and communicating clearly and persuasively rather than relying solely on speed or quantity of claims.	Either format is acceptable	I can flow and keep track of arguments for any speed of debate.	Both

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Landon Coutee	None	I have judged most recently at the 2025 UIL regional competition, as well as several times at grand oaks events over the past three years	I expect to see a contestant that is able to have a strong hook when introducing the topic to me and then providing a clear organization as to how they are going to answer their question. I look for them to follow this organization if they give one, or explain their thoughts in a logical manner if they do not explicitly describe one. I look for the contestant to provide interesting, thought-provoking ways to prove the stance they choose to take about the question. Lastly, I look for the delivery to have intonation and volume variety to accentuate points the speaker is trying to make, as well as their posture and eye contact.	In interpretation events, I expect contestants to clearly develop characters/storylines through vocal variation, facial expression, and purposeful physical movement. I expect performers to demonstrate a strong understanding of the piece's overall message and to structure their performance in a way that builds emotionally and feels intentional. I look for clear character differentiation and smooth transitions between moments or perspectives. What makes performers stand out is their full commitment to the emotional world of the piece while maintaining control and precision. Strong performers make the literature feel authentic and impactful rather than exaggerated or unfocused.	As a former WSD debater, I value clear structure, clash, and comparative analysis in a debate round. I look for teams to clearly frame the round, define the key issues, and provide a logical path for evaluating the debate. I expect debaters to directly engage with their opponents' arguments rather than speak past them, and to weigh impacts in a way that explains not just what matters, but why it matters more. Strong debaters stand out by being strategic and organized, collapsing to their best arguments, and communicating clearly and persuasively rather than relying solely on speed or quantity of claims.	Either format is acceptable	I can flow and keep track of arguments for any speed of debate.	Both
Laura Braun laura landsbaum	Bridgeland The woodlands high school	I have coached speech/debate and I have judged speech/debate Have judged 1 nsda event	I'm looking for well-researched opinions that tie assertions to evidence and offer analysis that can not only build the exigence of the point at hand but also contributes to the overall exigence of the piece. Speaking should be at a reasonable rate, and gestures should not distract from the words.being said. Good mastery of oratory skills, body language	Performances with a clear thematic development and clearly defined and performed characters. I should be able to tell who is who, character-wise through voice and mannerisms. Expression, emotion	I'm looking for well-researched opinions that tie assertions to evidence and offer analysis that can not only build the exigence of the point at hand but also contributes to the overall exigence of the argument. Speaking should be at a reasonable rate, and cross examination should demonstrate respect for the opponent. N/a	Either format is acceptable No Debate for me please :-)	PF - Conversational speed; LD - I will accept slightly higher than conversational speed. Spreading is not acceptable in either format N/a	Both No Debate for me please :-)
Lee Etheridge	Jersey Village	Judged tournaments for Cy Fair District for last 6 years. Former Speech student. Won State UIL 1A 1974-1976.	Speech Composition, articulation, inflection and enunciation. Use of body language and audience engagement. Correct interpretation and implementation of rules regarding their particular event.	Events such as Humorous (HI), Dramatic (DI), or Duo Interpretation— I look for a performance that "recreates" characters and scenes to make them feel living and real. Each character should have distinct vocal, physical, and emotional choices. Vocal variety in pitch, volume, rate, and tone to convey different moods and character traits. The selection from a literary work should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, building toward an appropriate climax.	I look for solid argumentation supported by evidence, direct clash with opposing points, and clear, persuasive delivery. Student should have well-researched cases, logical reasoning, effective use of evidence, and respectful engagement with opponents.	No Debate for me please :-)	I personally prefer a more conversational speed of 120-160 wpm. Of the student can clearly enunciate words and apply proper diction and inflection, higher speeds upwards of 300 wpm is fine for fast paced rapid delivery and response.	Both
Lynda Hecham	The Woodlands High School	I have judged POI and DX once.	When a student seems engaged and very well versed on their topic, it impresses me. I like to hear all sides of an argument, especially in extemporaneous speaking. A student's presence and their body language really impacts my ballot.	The emotion, and the most realistic acting is most impressive. I expect to see relevancy of their intro to their piece and in their intro I hope to be convinced why their piece matters. For DI and POI not only am I looking for the most flow and emotional acting, but actors who give justice for their topic. I am looking for good tech in HI and humor. Though it must be funny, they must show the societal impact of their piece.	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Majd Mohammad Afaneh	None	I was a competitor from 2021-2024, I qualified for TFA STATE, twice, in DI, OO, POI. I went to nationals for POI. I was UIL qualified for CX STATE. I have judged middle school state twice, alongside TFA state last year, I have judged numerous TFA qualifiers tournaments as well .	I need to see the triangle method, I need a theme, I need you to command the stage and accurately explain what it is you are talking about	I want to see a story, the performer embodying the character and it becoming more than just a script. I need to be embraced in the performance	I like to see arguments tackled on directly and clash is very important for me.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Any speed I can handle however I prefer a regular tone of voice than spreading.	Big Picture
Marilyn Ocker	none	Former Theatre Director and Speech and debate coach	Structure! It is so important to use appropriate organization when creating your speech, conversational delivery, fluency is also very important	Emotional Commitment to the characterizations, character development, both physical and emotional, great storytelling, and believable emotions	No spreading, I have to follow your arguments. And straight forward arguments that stick to the topic are preferred.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Articulate not super fast, we have to be able to follow and understand	Big Picture

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Martin Genovese	None	Judged at multiple tournaments over the last two decades. A parent judge, but one with experience and understands Debate and Speaking Events.	Clear speaking and coherent arguments.	Getting into the piece and embracing the characters, though this is not my forte.	Good arguments and clear speaking. Speed is a negative.	Traditional framework with voting issues	No speed. Clear speaking and good arguments.	Big Picture
Matthew Etheridge	Jersey Village	I've been judging for Tournaments for Mr E for a about a year	clear speaking and concise thoughts	I'll how they use body language and organize their thoughts	I will only be there for Thursday	No Debate for me please :-)	Only there Thursday	No Debate for me please :-)
				<p>Interpretation</p> <p>Important Quirk: I write comments during the performance. It's my version of flowing. You're going to get a stream-of-consciousness ballot. That means if I'm confused, you'll see it. If I'm moved, you'll see it. If something threw me off, you'll see that too. It's not rudeness — it's honesty. If this bothers you, strike me. Do not wait for your ballot and then complain.</p> <p>I need:</p> <p>a clear plot arc (rising action → climax → falling action) strong character differentiation blocking that is logical and consistent emotional delivery that matches the scene</p> <p>General: I want clear structure, well-distributed time, and strong sourcing. Two sources per point is the minimum for a solid speech; platform events should generally have 7+ total. Originality of topic matters in close calls.</p> <p>Extemp: Answer the question. Every point must link back to the question. Cite sources correctly — month and year for articles within the past year, year for older ones. Clean hooks that connect to the question get extra credit from me mentally.</p> <p>Informative: Visual aids should support the speech, not steal the show. If I'm looking at the prop more than listening to you, that's a problem.</p>	<p>TL:DR: If it's not on my flow, it doesn't exist. If I can't explain it back to you in the RFD or on the ballot, I will not vote on it. Disrespect, discrimination, or rudeness hurts speaks and can cost you the round.</p> <p>If someone says "disclosure theory," the team who introduced it automatically gets the down.</p> <p>General: I am generally tech unless what you say is abusively false — things like "the Holocaust was fake," "Uyghur camps are fake," or other nonsense that has no place in an educational space. Outside of that, and a few exceptions below, I don't care what you run. You just need to make sure I can follow it.</p> <p>At the end of the round, I should be able to look at my flow and clearly see how one side won. If I have to do mental gymnastics to figure out what your ballot story is, you probably didn't give me one. You need to weigh, extend, compare, and tell me why your arguments matter more. Do I have argumentation preferences? Yes. Do they change how I evaluate arguments? No. If you win it, you win it — even if I personally hate the strategy.</p>			
Meghan Avis Yen	Episcopal HS - Bellaire/Houston	Coach for 10 years and judge all types of events		<p>Hi: I'm notorious for not laughing. It's not personal. If I do laugh, it's genuine and will help you. Most of the time, I focus more on characterization and plot because the humor style in a lot of current HIs just isn't my thing.</p>		Traditional framework with voting issues	Whatever speed students can make their arguments in a CLEAR manner	Line by Line
Michelle De Belen	none	Judged interp/speech since 2014. Some PF/LD but I do not prefer it.	Preparation, seamless transitions, variety of qual/quant evidence	unique topics and literature, clear characterization, clear understanding of stakes/objective, classroom appropriate material, clear character/story arc	I don't want to see it if possible :) but if I do, clear presentation of evidence, no spreading, persuasive arguments, I don't like theory or overly technical tricks	Traditional framework with voting issues	The slower the better, but I can tolerate spreading if speech is clear	Line by Line
Monique Obey	Fort Bend ISD - George Bush High School	I have judged many speech and debate high school competitions. My favorite events to judge are IE.	I expect to see gestures being used, a lack of notes, a roadmap, and confidence.	Performers stand out when they use space well and blocking. They should also have their pieces memorized without hesitation and work well with their partner, if they have one.	I would rather judge IE performances.	No Debate for me please :-)	I would rather not judge debate.	No Debate for me please :-)
Munira Abdullah	Cypress Ranch	I have judged multiple tournaments this year mostly judging debate (WSD, PF, LD) and extemp	For platform I expect to see lots of sources, an educational "performance" and strong speaking voice.	For interp I expect to see clear characterization and blocking with a clear story.	I want to see clear weighing and refutation.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Not super comfortable with spreading but I don't mind some speed	Both

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Nabil Panjwani	Al-Hadi School of Accelerative Learning	15th year judging since I graduated high school, have judged all events	Speech cohesion is a huge thing that can push you over the top, floating attention-getting devices make your approach feel canned or ill-composed. I'm a stickler for structure and look heavily at time management. I hover around 7-11 sources as my ideal in most events. These events are about balancing on a tightrope between content density and entertainment value, your speech shouldn't have to tradeoff between the two if you put proper care into it.	Blocking & Spacing are the most objective measure for how refined your piece is, so I evaluate the choices you made with the piece moreso than the content you chose. There is a certain level of gesturing and facial control that can push you over the top, but those are minor details compared to how you're creating tone/mood with what you cut and the way you're delivering lines. Character shifts should be apparent but not jarring to how you've presented yourself. Don't let your theming emphasis be unclear to make a scene with more gravity hit harder, it feels really cheap.	Debate is supposed to start off Tabula Rasa, so substantiate your a priori arguments and let them clash if they can. I'm not going to tell you how to debate and how to approach getting my ballot, because you should know how to win if you bothered looking this up. Do what you're comfortable doing. Go for winning arguments and be tactical with your ballot/flow strategy. I don't count flash for prep. Both sides generally should seek to engage in the discourse of the debate in front of them, not be overtly focused on reading prewritten extensions.	Either format is acceptable	If it's not understandable, I'll yell clear. Otherwise, go as fast as you want (for L/D and C-X, for PF and WS I will down the debater for spreading).	Both
Nancy Alunni	Cypress Falls	Can judge all debate and speech	Structure, fluency, lit choice	Fluency, lit choice	weighing voters, framework, flow	Either format is acceptable	speed is fine as long as it's clear	Both
Naomi Diaz	None	I did congress and oratory all 4 years In high school, and I continue to judge debate in college. I've been judging for three years now	I like when their speeches are unique and well organized.	When the cut is clean, and the emotions well portrayed	I want to see a clear impact if arguments can be humanized I think that is very important to do so	Either format is acceptable	I don't really mind the speed	Both
Nathan Fell	Dulles	Have been a judge predominantly in PF and LD for the last year.	Clear delivery,	Characterization, movement.	Good clash, clear explanation and engagement with arguments. Lots of sign posting and judge direction.	Traditional framework with voting issues	One that is accessible for	Both
Nayem Jahingir	Jordan High School	Parent judge for last 4+ years	I expect to see clarity of thought, structured reasoning, and confident delivery	I expect to see strong storytelling, emotional authenticity, and purposeful performance choices.	I look for clear argumentation, logical structure, and respectful engagement between competitors	Traditional framework with voting issues	moderate	Both
Nicole Lee	Cypress Park	I have judged that many tournaments this past year.	I'm looking to hear speeches that can vape purpose that have a call to action and that are informative to topics that I mean, not know of or no much of in a very creative way.	I'm looking to see what pieces have the authenticity of what storytelling is and what it should look like	I wanna see what I thought out arguments cases thought-provoking CX.	No Debate for me please :-)	Normal to elevated speed	No Debate for me please :-)
Nicole Morgan	Montgomery HS	years as a coach	storytelling and interest in topic--relevancy	storytelling and interest in topic--relevancy	to hear the arguments	No Debate for me please :-)	able to hear and understand	Line by Line
Paula Walding	Montgomery High School	2 years as a speech and debate coach, as well as as experienced when I was in high school. I also judged speech and debate tournaments when I was in college.	A contestant in a speaking event stands out if they are clear and concise and thoroughly communicate their message to the audience.	In interrupt events, I like to see in-depth character, analysis and character nuances. I like for the emotion to be believable and honest. I prefer scripts that are original and not a remake of something popular.	In debate rounds, I like for the speakers argument to be organized, thorough, and clearly communicated.	Either format is acceptable	I'm more interested in the argument.	Both
Perry Beard	Clements HS	I've been judging since the Bush 41 administration	I focus on content over presentation (all things being equal)	Interesting and original material presented in a creative and polished manner	I want to see clash, refutation, and quality issue selection.	Either format is acceptable	6 out of 10 (I'm old)	Both
Rachana Manohar	Jordan high school	No much experience	Expressive, confidence, informative	The way they narrate the part, expression, emotions and sound effects	How well try come up with contour arguments.	No Debate for me please :-)	None	No Debate for me please :-)
Rachel Estrada	College Park High School	Have judged all IE and debate numerous times.	Poise while speaking and well-prepared, thoughtful points make contestants stand out. Well-rounded demonstrated understanding of the topic helps as well.	Performers with very clear characterization, good timing and memorization, and strong "stage" presence with unique topics typically stand out.	Good sportsmanship and interaction with the argument of the opposing team in good faith.	No Debate for me please :-)	Understandable speed	No Debate for me please :-)
Rebekah Wyche	Cypress Springs	Coach of team for the 4th year.	I expect to see stage presence, complicated arguments, the presentation of information in a unique and interesting way.	I like to see a clear plot arc. Bringing the character to life. Transporting me to your location.	Clear articulation with no spreading.	No Debate for me please :-)	Regular	No Debate for me please :-)
Rob Connick	Spring High School	2nd year of being a coach at Spring High School. Taught college courses in public speaking. Ph.D. in Theatre. Lead Theatre teacher at SHS.	Contestants should create a coherent line of thoughtthroughout. Students should be articulate and energetic, while adjusting rhythm and tempo to fit the moments.	Performers who stand out will have thoroughly developed characters and be able to create a vivid world around them.	Will not be available on debate days - not bringing students that day.	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Ronnie Massey	Klein Oak	Coach all events except World Schools for 2 years.	Polished speech with clean organization. Fluid transitions. Clear indicators specific to events. Speech events should not sound like extemp speeches unless the event is extemp.	Characterization, identifying with character, following a story to the message, clean transition to intro. Powerful intro that adds to the cut pieces and not just a checklist.	I should be able to flow arg. Organized arg along with refutation. Impacts that make me care.	Either format is acceptable	I must be able to flow or you didn't say it. Spreading to cover commentary of contentions and impacting is fine. So decent speed is fine. Spreading to cover more than opponent can block or thinking you know how to spread without cadence will backfire on the debater.	Both

Full Name	School Association; if none please say "none"	Please explain your judging experience.	Explain what you expect to see in speaking events. What makes contestants stand out?	Explain what you expect to see in interp. events. What makes performers stand out?	Explain what you want to see in a debate round.	In a debate round, do you prefer traditional or progressive debates?	What speed is appropriate for debate rounds?	What do you want to see in rebuttals?
Ryan Baker	Grand Oaks	6 years coaching and judging. Judged speech and debate at UDL, TFA local competition, TFA State, National Invitationals, NIETOC, NSDA Nationals.	I love that speaking events allow competitors to embrace their own voices and interests and I want to see via the performance that the subject matter is meaningful to you and something you are passionate about. Signposting is important to me so I can follow the organization of the speech. Strong, clear delivery with eye contact and confident body language is a must. Any movement should be deliberate to enhance the presentation.	Ultimately I'm making a holistic decision on the performance rather than weighing specific aspects of a performance higher than others. Performances that stand out to me: -have strong differentiation of characters that reflect personality of the character -purposeful blocking and movement that enhance rather than distract from the performance -are able to incorporate a range of emotions from loud, intense highs all the way to the quiet, personal lows -understand that louder is not always better -incorporate transitions in a novel and understandable way -have a clear flow of the story and the plot development is clear throughout	Truth > tech I do not like Ks or Theory arguments and vote primarily on case. The easiest debate rounds for me to judge are the ones where debaters use their final speeches effectively. I want to hear why you won. Highlight the most important argument in the round and key areas of clash and how (through weighing/calculus) your side wins the clash. If done correctly, I should be able to recite parts of your speech in my Reason For Decision.	Traditional framework with voting issues	130 - 160 words for minute	Both
Ryan Hennessey	Cypress Ranch	See Tabroom	See Tabroom	See Tabroom	See Tabroom	Traditional framework with voting issues	See Tabroom	Both
Salik Faisal	none	In High School, I primarily competed in Extemporaneous Speaking and Congressional Debate. I qualified for TFA State in Extemporaneous Speaking twice, and this is the event I am most qualified to judge. In debate events, my first preference is to judge Public Forum Debate. I have judged this event more than any other. I have also judged up to the Semifinals Round of PF at TFA State. My second and third preferences are World School Debate and Congressional Debate. I've had experience competing in Congressional Debate and have also judged the Semifinals round at TFA State.	A high level understanding of the topic that is well presented and has a degree of organization to it.	I am less qualified to judge this event, but for interp, what stands out to me is a performance that feels natural, is easy to follow, and connects with the audience.	Regardless of the event, I prefer to see a debate round with good events, warrants, and a coherent link chain from warrants to impacts. I like clash and refutations. Weighing your arguments and impacts is incredibly important and is key to the ballot.	Traditional framework with voting issues	I would prefer any speed that I can pick up with my ears only (can be fast but not spreading). I'm not a fan of spreading, but can handle it if cases are shared with me	Both
Shannon Thomas	Jersey Village High School	judged 3 prior tournaments	Well spoken, confident, engaging	make the piece come to life	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A	No Debate for me please :-)
Sheila Riestra	KIPP East End High School Debate Coach	I have been judging for 3 consecutive years.	They are under their time and perform convincingly and follow all the requirements for the speech.	They are under their time and perform convincingly and entertain.	That students argue with credible facts and use sources to back their arguments.	Either format is acceptable	Fast but not spreading	Both
Shelly Riddler	The Woodlands College Park High School	I have been judging speech events for the last 2 years. I am also a business teacher and DECA sponsor at my campus.	Good sportsmanship is key. I appreciate speakers who are well prepared without being overrehearsed.	Good sportsmanship is key. I appreciate speakers who are well prepared without being overrehearsed.	I hope to judge no debate rounds as I'm not very experienced with debate.	No Debate for me please :-)	N/A please!	No Debate for me please :-)
Sonya L. Smith	None	3.5-4 years on contract judging all categories.	I expect to see engaging content with expressive delivery and appropriate pacing.	I expect to see clearly connected, inspiring and/or reflective delivery of content. This makes the speaker stand out amongst others. Did the piece move me?	I want to see timely, convincing arguments I can follow and points debated	Traditional framework with voting issues	no spreading. I want to HEAR the information debated.	Line by Line

Full Name	School Association; if none please say "none"	Please explain your judging experience.	Explain what you expect to see in speaking events. What makes contestants stand out?	Explain what you expect to see in interp. events. What makes performers stand out?	Explain what you want to see in a debate round.	In a debate round, do you prefer traditional or progressive debates?	What speed is appropriate for debate rounds?	What do you want to see in rebuttals?
Tammie Raley	Cypress Park	15+ years of NSDA coaching and judging experience	<p>I am looking first and foremost for a clear, compelling, and engaging central idea. I want to understand what you are saying, why it matters, and how effectively you communicate it to the room.</p> <p>Delivery matters a great deal to me. I value a natural, conversational speaking style over something that feels overly rehearsed or robotic. I prefer speakers who feel authentic, confident, and connected to their material.</p> <p>I also appreciate performances that are engaging and entertaining. The best speeches are the ones where time seems to pass quickly because I am invested in the message and delivery. Humor, personality, and audience awareness are all welcome when used effectively.</p>	<p>In interpretation events, I am looking for a clear, well-told story with a strong narrative arc. I want to see a performance that clearly builds through rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution so the audience can follow the emotional journey of the piece.</p> <p>Characterization is very important to me. I value performers who create distinct, believable characters and make intentional choices about voice, physicality, and emotional shifts. I should always know who is speaking and why the moment matters.</p> <p>Above all, I want the performance to pull me into the story. The strongest interps make me feel invested in what happens next and create a sense of connection to the characters and themes.</p> <p>I reward performances that make the story feel alive and meaningful, not just technically correct.</p>	<p>In debate rounds, I am looking first and foremost for clash. I want to see debaters directly engage with their opponent's arguments rather than simply repeating their own points.</p> <p>Flowing matters to me. Strong debaters should go down the flow, respond to attacks, and make it clear how arguments interact. If something is important, I expect to hear it answered and extended in later speeches. Do not assume I will connect the dots for you. The best final speeches clearly explain: What arguments you are winning? Why those arguments matter most? How they outweigh your opponent's case?</p>	Traditional framework with voting issues	I don't care for spreading	Both
Taylor Unger	Conroe High School	None	N/A	N/A	<p>As someone new to judging debate, I expect clear positions, organized arguments, and respectful back-and-forth. I want debaters to explain their ideas in a way that's easy to understand, respond directly to what the other side says, and tell me why their points matter more. The strongest teams make the round feel like a conversation, not two speeches talking past each other. Clear explanations, confidence, and a strong summary of why they won are what help me decide the round.</p>	Traditional framework with voting issues	As a new judge, debate should be fast enough to be engaging but slow enough to be understood without specialized training. I should not need to flow at a competitive level or ask debaters to slow down to follow the round.	Line by Line
Thuan Nguyen	Kerr	Judged for about 4 years at over 20+ tournaments	Fluency, conversational tone, well researched, and somewhat entertaining.	Creativity and polished performance	Strong, concise arguments backed by evidence.	Traditional framework with voting issues	Fast pace is fine if case is shared	Both
Tirumala Cheedella	none	I have no prior experience with judging debates.	being authentic	not sure	not sure	Traditional framework with voting issues	not sure	Big Picture
Victoria Sturm	Jersey Village HS	Judged a district tournament and NSDA State in 2025.	Be passionate and confident--argument and style are equally important. Conversational rate is preferred over a fast delivery for engagement purposes.	Make a clear distinction between characters--effective use of both physical and vocal variation is important. Fully engage with the audience and exhibit clear articulation, strong vocal projection and stage presence.	No debate.	No Debate for me please :-)	No debate.	No Debate for me please :-)
William Ryan Powers	Bridgeland High School	I have been judging speech and debate as a coach for approximately 8 years.	Great speeches, to me, have a logical structure, an interesting yet sound line of reasoning, and compelling delivery.	Strong characterization, purposeful blocking, and a well structured story with an impactful message make interp events stand out to me.	I want strong fundamental debate and a keen sense of how arguments work together as well as which are the most important.	Traditional framework with voting issues	some speed is ok, but it should not inhibit coherency	Both
Zachary Baker	None	3 years judged a fair bit of everything. I'll judge anything	Entertaining, thought provoking, good pacing is both speaking and organization wise.	Entertaining/thought provoking. Characters should be distinct. Intros really do matter for me because they assist me in understanding what the piece is and why someone chose it.	Clash, good voters.	Either format is acceptable	Twice as fast as usual, and a little bit slower for rebuttal.	Both