



SPEECH & DEBATE HOW TO JUDGE



Volunteering to judge is a great way to support your local Speech & Debate team as each team is required to bring judges to every competition.

SIGNING UP

- If you haven't already, create an account on tabroom.com
- Tabroom is our tournament management system and allows you to submit your ballots and rankings
- To see upcoming tournaments view: azforensics.org/calendar/

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable shoes
 - Laptop or tablet
 - Phone & Laptop Charger
 - Notebook & Pen
(if you prefer to take handwritten notes, to later transfer onto tabroom)
- Food is usually provided for LD, PF, and Speech Judges*

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Congress

7:30am - Check-In
8:00am - Session 1
11:00am - Lunch
12:00pm - Session 2

LD/PF Debate

3:00pm - Check-In
3:30pm - Round 1
4:45pm - Round 2
6:00pm - Round 3
7:15pm - Round 4

SATURDAY

Speech

7:30am - Check-In
8:00am - Round 1
9:30am - Round 2
11:00am - Round 3
2:30pm - Semifinals
5:30pm - Finals
7:45pm - Awards

LD/PF Debate

12:00pm - Check-In
12:30pm - Octos
1:45pm - Quarters
3:30pm - Semis
6:00pm - Finals
7:45pm - Awards

**Tournament schedules may vary slightly from tournament to tournament. Check Tabroom for official schedule.
**National Circuit tournaments may follow a different schedule*



HOW TO JUDGE DEBATE



WHEN YOU GET THE BALLOT

- As soon as you get the ballot, click **START**.
 - This lets the tournament staff know you are available to judge that round.
 - Missing rounds may incur fees and penalties for the team.
- If you are ever lost in Tabroom, click your email at the top right corner to take you back to your dashboard.
- Clicking *Current Ballots & Panels* under the heading *Judging* in the right column will also redirect back to your ballot.

SCORING

- At the end of the round, provide your RFD (reason for decision) on the ballot.
- Provide each competitor with individual comments on what they did well and what they can improve on.
- Decide on the winner.
- Give each competitor a speaker score from a range of 20-30 (below average-outstanding).
- Determine if the round was a low-point win (when the winner has a lower speaker score)
- Submit and confirm your ballot.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **Evidence:** Did the debater support arguments with facts and expert opinions? You may ask to see the evidence quote/source.
- **Reasoning:** Did the conclusions reached by the debater flow from the evidence? Were the arguments complete
- **Rebuttal:** Was the evidence or reasoning used attacked by the opposing team? Was the attack successful? Did the debater effectively counter the arguments of the opponents?
- **Cross Examination:** Were questions relevant and brief? Were answers on point? Was it a civil exchange?
- **Delivery:** Did each debater speak in an organized communicative style that was pleasant and easily understandable?

RECOGNIZE IMPLICIT BIAS

- We are all influenced by implicit bias.
- Please take a moment to reflect on any biases that may impact your decision-making process.
- Your interpretation of the topic is not relevant.
- It is up to the students to debate any meanings or interpretations of the topic.
- Base your judgment only on what was said.
- It is the responsibility of the debaters to convince an unbiased person (you) of their position.

LD DEBATE

- LD debate is a one-person, value-based, persuasive debate. One person fulfills the affirmative case responsibilities and the other person fulfills the negative

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **Value Argumentation**
 - Use of values criteria to support the debater's position in the round.
 - Criteria are a system upon which to measure values.
- **Logical Chain of Reasoning**
 - Using the value, which leads to the conclusions of the affirmative or negative position.
- **Clarity of Ideas**
 - The debater's presentation should be expressed in an easy-to-follow structure.
- **Effectiveness of delivery**
 - The debater should use their oral communications skills to persuade the listener with logic, analysis, and mode of delivery.
- **Clash**
 - With the exception of the affirmative constructive speech, neither speaker should be rewarded for presenting oratory unrelated to the rest of the debate.

Affirmative Case - 6 min
Cross-Examination - 3 min
Negative Case/Rebuttal - 7 min
Cross-Examination - 3 min
Affirmative Rebuttal - 4 min
Negative Rebuttal - 6 min
Affirmative Rebuttal - 3 min



Prep Time - 3 min each
(used in-between speeches and CX at the debaters' discretion)

PF DEBATE

- PF debate involves a team of two debating another team over a topic taken from recent newsworthy events.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **Dropped Arguments**
 - When one team will claim that the other team has ignored an argument and therefore they must be conceding the point.
 - This may or may not be true.
 - It is up to you to decide if the dropped argument is really powerful enough to give one side the win.
- **New Arguments in Summary & Final Focus**
 - It is against the rules for a team to introduce new arguments in any of the Summary or Final Focus speeches.
 - New evidence, opinions, facts, etc. are NOT new arguments.
- **Addressing the Burden**
 - Each side has an equal burden to convince you of the (un)desirability of the topic.

1st Team Constructive - 4 min
2nd Team Constructive - 4 min
Crossfire - 3 min
1st Team Rebuttal - 4 min
2nd Team Rebuttal - 4 min
Crossfire - 3 min
1st Team Summary - 3 min
2nd Team Summary - 3 min
Grand Crossfire - 3 min
1st Team Final Focus - 2 min
2nd Team Final Focus - 2 min



Prep Time - 3 min per team
(used in-between speeches and CX at the debaters' discretion)



HOW TO JUDGE SPEECH



Speech and interpretation events focus on the delivery of the speech and the connection with the audience. As a judge, you will be evaluating these performances and providing feedback on how students can improve.

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WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Memorization & Fluency
 - Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, and all Interpretation events should be fully memorized
- Solid Logic and Argumentation
- Characterization
- Passion and Energy
- Confidence
- Timing
 - Competitors receive a 30 sec grace period. Speeches beyond the grace period cannot be ranked 1st.
 - Competitors may ask for time signals

SCORING

- Provide comments to each student regarding what they did well and what they should improve on.
- Rank the competitors from 1-7 (best to worst).
- Provide speaker points for each competitor from a range of 20-50 (below average-outstanding)
 - Speaker points should correlate with your overall ranking.
- Submit and confirm your ballot.

RECOGNIZE IMPLICIT BIAS

- We are all influenced by implicit bias.
- Please take a moment to reflect on any biases that may impact your decision-making process.
- Feedback provided to students should be productive and educational.
- Comments provided on the ballots should center around the content of the presentation.
- Avoid any comments related to dress, appearance, pitch of voice, etc.

INFORMATION TABLE

- The table is available to help answer any questions.
- Pick up Impromptu topics here.



SPEECH/INTERP EVENTS



LIMITED PREP

- **Extemporaneous Speaking - 7min.**
 - Speakers enter the round after 30 minutes of preparation.
 - Speakers perform an analysis of current events involving proper citations of sources.
 - Reward creativity and organization used with superior citations delivered well.
- **Impromptu Speaking - 7 min.**
 - A speech about a random topic was provided by the tournament.
 - The speech must be prepared and delivered in 7 minutes.
 - Most use 2 for prep, 5 for the speech, but there is no rule.
 - Reward creativity and relevance to the topic provided.

PLATFORM SPEAKING

- **Informative Speaking - 10min.**
 - This event is an informative speech that may use visual aids.
 - The speech should be specific in what it informs you about.
 - If used, the visuals should amplify the ideas presented without being overwhelming.
- **Original Oratory - 10min.**
 - This event is a persuasive speech that the speaker has written.
 - Organization is the key here.
 - Topics should be specific problems and offer specific solutions, and the speech should be to convince you of the solution.

INTERPRETATION

- **Dramatic Interp - 10min.**
 - This event is generally a cutting from a play and is serious in nature.
 - Performances should have believable, distinct characters.
 - Are body responses appropriate?
 - Is there sufficient use of gestures appropriate to the character?
- **Humorous Interp - 10min.**
 - This event is usually a cutting from a play, or other literature and is humorous in nature.
 - The rubric is the same as above.
- **Duo Interp - 10min.**
 - This event is usually a cutting from a play for two actors.
 - The focus must be offstage – the actors neither touch nor look at each other.
 - The blocking and timing are very important in this event.
- **Program Oral Interpretation - 10min.**
 - A performance of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama, etc.
 - Characters should be distinct.
- **Poetry Interpretation - 10min.**
 - A performance of thematically-linked selections of published poetry.
 - Characters should be distinct.
- **Prose Interpretation - 10min.**
 - This event is usually a short story or a cutting from a larger story.
 - Unlike Dramatic and Humorous, there may be a good deal of narration.
- **Original Spoken Word Poetry - 3min.**
 - A performance of poetry written by the student.
 - Final rounds require students to perform 3 poems.