

Judge Cheat Sheet for Elementary Debate Events

This document is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging. **To access your ballots go to live.speechwire.com.** As soon as you are in your room, **press "Start Round" in Speechwire.** Please call all names on your ballots to make sure the students are in the correct room.

Student Congress (CD)

Contestants in Student Congress become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US Legislative Branch of the federal government.

Regulations:

- Speeches are up to 3 minutes (PO will announce speech times)
- After each speaker, there will be a 1-minute questioning period
- Speeches should be on appropriate topic/side

Content:

- Focused on topic
- Organized
- Factual accuracy
- Good composition
- Cited references and evidence

Delivery:

- Eye Contact
- Confidence
- Appropriate Tone
- Professional Tone

Scoring:

- **Speech Scores: 1 (poor) – 6 (excellent). Competitors can tie speech scores. Score each speech separately. Some competitors may speak more than once.**
- **Rank Competitors: 1 (best) - 8 (look at how many speeches they made, how many points you gave for each speech, their decorum towards the chamber, participation, questioning, etc.)**
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- You should maintain a record for yourself as to who your top three speakers are at any given time

Public Forum Debate (PF)

Students work on 2 person teams to support or oppose contentions of a resolve. Teams will be assigned Aff/Neg prior to the round, as indicated on the ballot.

Regulations:

- The ONLY pre-prepared, prewritten argument in PF is the first one, which is the constructive case.
- The other three arguments (rebuttal, summary, and final focus) are written from the flow (notes) during the round. Those three arguments should be based on what points a team proved and link-chained to impact without being blocked.
- PF is designed to be a live debate in which teams are trying to block and refute their opponent's case while carrying through their own evidence-based claims.
- Teams are allowed to bring printed evidence and articles to use with their arguments, and do not have to be memorized.
- Students advocate or reject a resolution in a manner that is clear to the judge.
- Students offer reasoning and cited evidence to support their position.
- Students should be arguing the resolution, and their claims made, not their opponents.

Content and Delivery:

- Factually accurate
- Organized
- Focused on topic
- Point of view supported
- Research referenced and evidence cited
- Response and questions in cross-fire
- Confidence
- Speaking rate

TOPIC - Fall 2024: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.

Scoring:

- **Teams are assigned win (W) or lose (L) with points ranging from 25 (lowest) to 30 (highest)**
- **Indicate the Reason for Decision (RFD)**
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- Do NOT disclose the win or loss at the end of the round.

Argument	Time (Minute)	Purpose
Aff: Speaker 1 Constructive Argument	2	Present Team's Case
Neg: Speaker 1 Constructive Argument	2	Present Team's Case
Crossfire Questioning	1.5	Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Prep Time	2	Teams can work together to prepare
Aff: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Neg: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Crossfire Questioning	1.5	Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Aff: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Crystallize the round and zero-in on the most important points
Neg: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Crystallize the round and zero-in on the most important points
Grand Crossfire Questioning	1.5	All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once
Prep Time	1	Teams can work together to prepare
Aff: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round
Neg: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round

Judge Cheat Sheet for Elementary Debate Events

This document is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging. **To access your ballots go to live.speechwire.com.** As soon as you are in your room, **press "Start Round" in Speechwire.** Please call all names on your ballots to make sure the students are in the correct room.

Impromptu Speaking (IMP)

Students are given 7 minutes to prepare and speak on a given topic. Students may use the provided index card (they may not use their own or paper) during their speech, but should not be reading directly from it.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 7 minutes (to plan and speak) (please note speaking time on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period

Content:

- Factually accurate
- Organized
- Focused on topic
- Point of view supported

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Original Oratory (OO)

Students write, memorize, and deliver a speech they have written themselves. This speech should include a problem, the cause and effects of the problem and a suggested solution.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place

Content:

- Organized, flows, easy to follow
- Clear message
- Entertaining
- Good composition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Duo Interpretation (DUO)

Two student team memorize and perform a published scene portraying either single or multiple characters.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place
- Students may not touch or have eye contact except during introduction, no props

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece must be published
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Interpretation (INT)

Students memorize and perform a dramatic or humorous piece of published poetry or prose.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place
- Student may use the general area, but not step away from performance spot

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece must be published
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Declamation (DEC)

Competitors memorize and deliver a portion or portions of a printed, published, & publicly delivered speech previously performed by someone else (commencement addresses, historical speeches, political speeches, celebrity speeches, etc.).

Regulations:

- There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the speech.
- Time: up to 5 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)
- Time violations cannot place first (30 second grace period).
- NO NOTES (Paper or Digital)
- Those using notes should not rank first

Content:

- Entertaining, relatable, & flows
- Speech choice appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

SPEECH SCORING:

- Rank: each student in the room with a 1 being the highest rank.
- Speaker Points: range from 90-100 and correspond with the ranking of the students.
- First place will have the highest number of speaking points and last place will have the lowest. There should be no ties in the room.