

# Judge Cheat Sheet: Speech Events

This sheet is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging individual events. Remember, **feedback is crucial!** Let them know of things they did well, but also what they could improve on. **Ballots are at [live.speechwire.com](http://live.speechwire.com)** As soon as you are in your room, press "Start Round" in Speechwire. (Go ahead and start the round, even if all competitors are not there. Allow late competitors in to compete.)

Extemporaneous (EXT)	Original Oratory (OO)	Declamation (DEC)	Impromptu (IMP)	Interpretation (HI, DI, DUO)	Poetry & Prose (POE & PRO)	Informative (INFO)
<p>In a prep room (not your room), competitors are presented with a choice of three questions related to national and international current events. The competitor has 30 minutes to prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. You will receive competitors one at a time, in 10-minute increments. Each student should stay to watch the remaining competitors. 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.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5- 7-minute speech (only valid if timed with stopwatch)</li> <li>• Time violations cannot place first (<b>30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• Organized, focused, research referenced.</li> <li>• <b>Your opinion on the topic should <u>not</u> influence the ranking.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Competitors write, <b>memorize</b>, and deliver a speech with the intent to inform or persuade the audience on a topic of significance. <b>It must have a problem, with causes, effects, and solutions.</b> Competitors should remain in the room for the remaining competitors' speeches.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: 8:30-10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)</li> <li>• Time violations cannot place first (<b>30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• <b><u>NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)</u></b></li> <li>• Those using notes can not rank first in the round.</li> <li>• Organized, flows, easy-to-follow, clear message, entertaining.</li> <li>• <b>Your opinion on the topic should <u>not</u> influence the ranking.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Competitors <b>memorize</b> and deliver a portion or portions of a published, publicly delivered speech previously performed by someone else (commencement addresses, historical speeches, political speeches, celebrity speeches, etc.). There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the speech.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: 8:30 - 10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)</li> <li>• Time violations cannot place first (<b>30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• <b><u>NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)</u></b></li> <li>• Those using notes can not rank first in the round.</li> <li>• Entertaining, flows, relatable</li> <li>• <b>Your opinion on the topic should <u>not</u> influence the ranking.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Competitors have 7 minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline and deliver a speech. The speech uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The judge will give 2-3 topic choices and the competitor will choose one. The 7 minutes will start once the competitor chooses the topic (that topic is no longer valid for any other competitor). Competitors should remain in the room for all speeches. 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.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: up to 7 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)</li> <li>• 7 minutes includes preparation time <b>and</b> performing the speech.</li> <li>• Time violations cannot place first (<b>30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• Those using notes should not rank first in the round.</li> <li>• Organized, focused on topic, supported using examples, facts, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Your opinion on the topic should <u>not</u> influence the ranking.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Competitors <b>memorize</b> and perform a published scene portraying either single or multiple characters. <b>PROPS ARE NOT PERMITTED</b> (any item is considered a prop: chair, table, etc.). In DUO, competitors may <b>not</b> make eye contact, nor touch. There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the piece.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: up to 10 minutes</li> <li>• Time violations cannot place first (<b>30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• <b><u>NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)</u></b></li> <li>• Those using notes should not rank first in the round.</li> <li>• <b>DUO</b> – Students do not touch or have eye contact except during the introduction.</li> <li>• Entertaining, characters clearly defined and differentiated, plot makes sense.</li> <li>• Your opinion on the topic should <b><u>not</u></b> influence the ranking.</li> </ul>	<p>Competitors deliver dramatic readings of published poems or pieces of published works. Competitors will have a black binder to refer to, but most of their speech should be <b>memorized</b> (they should not be just reading from the binder, only referring to it). There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the piece.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: up to 7 minutes</li> <li>• Time violations should not place first (<b>30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• Students may not step away from performance spot</li> <li>• Entertaining, passionate, easy to follow</li> <li>• Your opinion on the topic should <b><u>not</u></b> influence the ranking.</li> </ul>	<p>A self-written speech on a topic of their choice, using logic and evidence <b>to inform, not advocate.</b> Visual aids are allowed. Visual aids should be used to enhance the speech, but not distract from the speech or be the main focal point. All research should be cited verbally.</p> <p><u>Judging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time: up to 10 minutes</li> <li>• Time violations should not place first (<b>30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot</b>).</li> <li>• Focused on topic</li> <li>• Organized and factual information with support of sources.</li> <li>• Should educate and entertain</li> <li>• Visual aids are engaging and have smooth delivery</li> <li>• Your opinion on the topic should <b><u>not</u></b> influence the ranking.</li> </ul>

**In ALL Speech Events:** Please look for the following: eye contact, confidence, articulation... (PVLEGS: Poise, Voice, Life, Eye contact, Gestures, Speed)  
Please make detailed comments on each ballot (positive & areas of improvement). Rank students in first to last, no ties. Issue speaker points, 90 to 100 (highest points to 1st)

**DISCLOSURE of RESULTS ANY round is PROHIBITED.**

## Storytelling (STY)

A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend must be retold without notes or props. The story may be delivered standing or seated. If a chair is used, students may choose the original position of the chair. Legs of the chair must remain stationary and competitors cannot stand or kneel on the chair. Gestures, pantomime, and Characterization may be used but focus must be on the narrative. **NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)**  
Those using notes should not rank first in the round.

- Time: up to 5 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch). Time violations cannot place first (**30 second grace period**).
- Entertaining, characters clearly defined and differentiated, plot makes sense.

# Judge Cheat Sheet: Debate Events

This sheet is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging individual events. Remember, feedback is crucial! Let them know of things they did well, but also what they could improve on. **Ballots are at [live.speechwire.com](http://live.speechwire.com)** As soon as you are in your room, press "Start Round" in Speechwire.

Student Congress (CON)	Public Forum (PF)	Lincoln/Douglas Debate (LD)	Policy Debate (CX)																																																																																																			
<p>Contestants in Student Congress become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US legislative branch of the federal government. There is a chamber of 15-23 competitors, as well as a PO (Presiding Officer-will run the room using Parliamentary Procedure)</p> <p><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student speeches are up to 3 minutes (PO will announce speech times)</li> <li>• Legislation authors have 2 minutes mandatory questioning period</li> <li>• All other questioning periods are 1 minute.</li> <li>• Students may not have visual aids</li> <li>• Speech should be on appropriate topic/side</li> <li>• Focused on topic, organized, factual accuracy, good composition, references</li> <li>• Eye Contact, confidence, appropriate/professional tone</li> </ul> <p>Score every speech—points range from 1 (poor) to 6 (excellent).</p> <p>Competitors should not receive extra points for questioning, however it should help determine ranking if the speech points are tied.</p> <p>Your opinion on the topic should <b>not</b> influence the ranking.</p> <p>Competitors rank 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.)</p> <p>Please make detailed positive and constructive comments on each student ballot.</p>	<p>Team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Teams will be assigned pro/con prior to the round, indicated on the ballot.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Speech</th> <th>Time Limit (Minute)</th> <th>Purpose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pro: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech</td> <td>4</td> <td>Present Team's Case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Con: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech</td> <td>4</td> <td>Present Team's Case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossfire</td> <td>3</td> <td>Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pro: Speaker 2 Rebuttal</td> <td>4</td> <td>Refute the opposing side's arguments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Con: Speaker 2 Rebuttal</td> <td>4</td> <td>Refute the opposing side's arguments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crossfire</td> <td>3</td> <td>Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pro: Speaker 1 Summary</td> <td>3</td> <td>Begin forming the main issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Con: Speaker 1 Summary</td> <td>3</td> <td>Begin forming the main issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Crossfire</td> <td>3</td> <td>All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pro: Speaker 2 Final Focus</td> <td>2</td> <td>Explain reasons they should win the round</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Con: Speaker 2 Final Focus</td> <td>2</td> <td>Explain reasons they should win the round</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(3minutes of prep time given for each team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on topic, organized arguments, factual accuracy, cited evidence to support points, countered arguments presented by opposing team</li> <li>• Confident, respectful of other team</li> <li>• Your opinion on the topic should <b>not</b> influence the ranking.</li> <li>• NO INTERNET USE BY COMPETITORS</li> </ul> <p>Each team receives speaker points ranging from 25-30 points (highest total points goes to winning team) and should reflect your win/loss decision. Please justify your decision and provide positive, but constructive feedback to each team.</p>	Speech	Time Limit (Minute)	Purpose	Pro: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech	4	Present Team's Case	Con: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech	4	Present Team's Case	Crossfire	3	Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions	Pro: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	4	Refute the opposing side's arguments	Con: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	4	Refute the opposing side's arguments	Crossfire	3	Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions	Pro: Speaker 1 Summary	3	Begin forming the main issues	Con: Speaker 1 Summary	3	Begin forming the main issues	Grand Crossfire	3	All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once	Pro: Speaker 2 Final Focus	2	Explain reasons they should win the round	Con: Speaker 2 Final Focus	2	Explain reasons they should win the round	<p>Each debater will try to show why their position supports the more important principles inherent in their position and why that position is superior to the opponent's. It is based on a value judgement. Debaters will be assigned aff/neg prior to the round, indicated on the ballot.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Speech</th> <th>Time Limit (Minute)</th> <th>Purpose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Affirmative Constructive</td> <td>6</td> <td>Present the affirmative case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative Cross-Examination</td> <td>3</td> <td>Negative asks questions of the aff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative Constructive</td> <td>7</td> <td>Present Neg case and refute Aff case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affirmative Cross-Examination</td> <td>3</td> <td>Affirmative asks questions of the neg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Aff Rebuttal</td> <td>4</td> <td>Refute the negative case, rebuild aff case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative Rebuttal</td> <td>6</td> <td>Refute the aff case, rebuild the neg case, offer reasons neg should win</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Aff Rebuttal</td> <td>3</td> <td>Address neg reasons, offer why aff should win</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(4minutes of prep time given per debater)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on topic, organized arguments, factual accuracy, cited evidence to support points, countered arguments presented by opposing team</li> <li>• Confidence, respectful of other team, appropriate/professional tone</li> <li>• Your opinion on the topic should <b>not</b> influence the ranking.</li> <li>• NO INTERNET USE BY COMPETITORS</li> </ul> <p>Each debater receives speaker points ranging from 25-30 points (highest total points goes to winner) and should reflect your win/loss decision. 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**DISCLOSURE of JUDGE DECISION and/or CRITIQUE of ANY round is PROHIBITED.**

**Public Forum Debate: Sept/Oct 2024:** Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Novice Topic:** Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory.

**Policy Debate: 2024-2025 Topic** Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly strengthen its protection of domestic intellectual property rights in copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks.