

# BASIC INFO FOR ALL DEBATE

## JUDGE TRAINING || ONE PAGERS

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### DO

- Bring an electronic device on which you can type speaker feedback.
- Give both positive and constructive criticism - TAKE NOTES! - How you take notes is up to you, but debaters worry if you don't write anything down
- Highlight factual errors or logical fallacies. Highlight which arguments worked, and which didn't
- Submit your ranks (CD) or winner (LD and PF) as soon as you know them
- Take the time you need to input comments - you have until the awards ceremony to update those
- Take attendance before starting the round. To do this, wait until the same number of speakers that are on your ballot are in the room. Then call out the numbers, and each speaker will say "here." If you are missing someone, wait a little longer before telling one of the tournament hosts. If someone is in the wrong room, they'll know that they have to leave and try to find the correct room. This is pretty rare
- Enjoy lunch! It is provided to judges for free
- Arrive one hour before the first round starts

### DON'T

- Be another debater in the room - leave beliefs and bias at the door. Judge decisions must be based on what you hear in the round, not on your prior knowledge. Assume all arguments you hear are true until another debater demonstrates they are not. (If one debater says the earth is flat, and no one else negates this, then for the debate...the earth is flat.)
- Comment on what the competitor is wearing
- Give any feedback aloud
- Discuss speakers you saw with other people at the tournament (there is a chance they will judge the same speaker later, and the judge needs to go in with only their thoughts and feedback in mind)
- Copy and paste the same comments for more than one competitor
- Judge someone you know. If you walk into a round and you know someone in there, find the tournament manager so that you can be reassigned. Also, tell your team's coach so that they can "block" you from judging them in the future
- Say things like "the other debater was just better." This does not help - give reasons

### QUICK TERMS to know

**ROUND:** Each competition room is called a "round." There are typically 4-5 rounds at season tournaments. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD) rounds, one competitor will debate one competitor. In Public Forum Debate (PF) rounds, a team of two competitors will debate another team of two competitors. In Congressional Debate (CD), there can be anywhere from 10-25 competitors in a chamber. In Middle School Extemporaneous Debate (MS-ED), one competitor will debate one competitor.

**PLUGGED:** Judges who do not have a round assigned to them may be "plugged" if another judge doesn't show up to their round.

**BLAST:** You may hear, "rounds have been blasted!", which means that room/competitor/judge assignments have been sent out to your emails and/or phone.

# CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

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## TERMS TO KNOW IN CD

### **Amendment**

All amendments to the Constitution are resolutions.

### **Bill**

A bill is a proposed law. It mandates a specific course of action, which, if not followed, results in a defined legal penalty.

### **Chamber**

This term is only used in Congressional Debate (CD). A chamber is an assembly that meets and votes on bills and laws.

### **Recency**

A rule where the presiding officer not only employs precedence (see definition below), but also selects speakers based on who has spoken least recently (or earliest).

### **Precedence**

A rule that requires the presiding office to choose speakers who have spoken last (or not at all).

### **Ranks**

Your primary responsibility is ranking the top competitors in the chamber at the conclusion of the session, with "1" being the best student in the chamber. The tournament will inform you of how many students need to be ranked in that particular session. Typically, you will need to rank the top 8 or top 10 students in the chamber. Ties are not permitted. Rankings should reflect the entirety of the session you judged in that chamber. Considering all aspects of Congressional Debate, which student was most impressive? That student should earn the "1" for the round. The second most impressive student should earn the "2" for the round, etc.

### **Resolution**

A resolution is a position statement or a recommendation. In most Congress sessions, there is no reason to introduce or debate resolutions that don't "do" anything. They explain why something should be done rather than how it must be done.

### **Presiding Officer**

A student elected to run the chamber for a portion of the time. They manage the docket, determine the next speaker/questioner, moderate questioning, and handle motions/votes.

### **Parliamentarian**

An experienced adult will be selected to serve as parliamentarian. This person ensures that the students are running the chamber correctly and steps in when guidance is needed.

# CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

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## WHAT IS CD?

In Congressional Debate, speakers act as legislators at the federal or state level. Speakers offer legislation, debate it, make motions, ask questions, and vote. Throughout, they follow parliamentary procedure. The Congressional Debate chamber should resemble a real congress or state legislative chamber.

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

### Timeline

1. Parliamentarian will divide the chamber into 2 caucuses and each one will rank their legislation from top to bottom. They will alternate back and forth to set the day's docket
2. The debaters elect a Presiding Officer (PO) for each round by motioning and seconding nominations. Each PO will give an election speech. The nominee with the most votes picks the round they want to PO, then the next picks, the last is given the final round
3. The PO will then initiate the procedure for the day's debate
4. Sponsorship/authorship speeches
5. 2 minute questioning period
6. Speeches that are for or against the bill
7. 2 minute questioning period after the first negative speech
8. 1 minute questioning period after all speeches thereafter
9. Motions (can be to table the legislation, or to vote on the legislation. If the legislation is tabled, it can be revisited later in the session. If the motion is to vote, the legislation cannot be revisited later.)
10. Motion for orders of the day
11. Motion to adjourn

### Speeches

A speech that is for or against a bill is typically in this format:

- Introduction (clearly states the side, indicates the organizational plan)
- Body (2-3 points, organized by some logical plan. Each point should be developed by claim, warrant, evidence, and impact. GREAT speeches will refer back to a previous speakers' points.)
- Conclusion

Speeches that are either for or against a bill are about three minutes.

After the sponsorship speeches, no speech needs to be memorized; notes are acceptable.

# CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

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## HOW LONG IS A ROUND?

It depends on how many students are present, but rounds can last up to 1.5 hours.

## TRACKING AND SCORING

For reasons including tracking activity in the chamber, judges are asked to score each time a student speaks or presides. These scores do not impact tournament results; they only reflect the “points” that students “earn” during the chamber, so in this case, more is better! When entering a score for a speech or for presiding, the typical range is 3-6, with 6 being best, and 3 being the fewest points typically awarded for a speech or for presiding. Scores of 1 or 2 are reserved for extreme situations, such as speaking for less than a minute, speaking on the wrong side of a piece of legislation or the incorrect piece of legislation, or unprofessionalism.

## HOW DO I DECIDE RANKS?

Leave person bias at the door. A judge's personal opinion cannot decide the ranks within a round. When writing comments, give the speakers compliments as well as constructive criticism. Consider the following questions...

### Vocal quality

- Did the speaker use crisp enunciation, were they easily heard, and did they speak at an appropriate rate?
- Did they speaker alter rate, volume, and pitch in relation to the subject and to create interest?

### Physical presentation

- Was the speaker poised, confident, and did they present themselves professionally?
- Were they attentive throughout the round?

### Speech content (arguably the most important aspect in judging CD)

- Did the speaker present their speech or speeches with a clear organizational pattern that was easy to follow?
- Did the speaker provide logical analysis supported with current sources and relevant evidence?
- Did the speaker cite sources for all materials referenced?
- If the speaker simply repeated what another speaker said, also take this into consideration. Speakers should add new and relevant information, even while they also refer back to other speakers.
- How did the speaker respond to questioning?

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## CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRESIDING OFFICERS

- Correct application of precedence
- Correct application of rules and motions
- Enforce prohibition of back/forth questioning
- Enforce prohibition of prefacing
- Leadership/command of the room
- Running an efficient chamber

The OSDA affirms that a Presiding Officer is worthy of being ranked as the best competitor in the chamber. However, serving as a Presiding Officer does not necessarily guarantee that a competitor is ranked at or near the top of the chamber. If few students are willing to preside, that could indicate the Presiding Officer role is particularly impactful in that session and could be considered as such when ranking competitors.

Each time the Presiding Officer(s) call(s) on speakers, they will consider:

1. Which debater has spoken the fewest number of times (precedence)
2. Which debater has spoken least frequently (recency)

## LINKS

e-Ballot Overview: <https://bit.ly/CDeballot>

Current legislation: <https://bit.ly/CDlegislationOSDA>

Example rubrics: <https://bit.ly/CDrubric>

Example judge ballot template: <https://bit.ly/CDballot>

Mock Congress session: <https://bit.ly/CDmocksession>

# LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

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## TERMS TO KNOW IN LD

### Contention

The are four parts to an argument:

- Claim - the title given to the argument
- Data - evidence that supports the claim
- Warrant - within the evidence, 1-2 sentences that prove the claim true
- Impact - why the claim matters

### Low point win

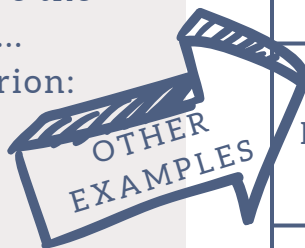
This occurs if, for whatever reason, the person with less quality points than their adversary wins the round. This is rare.

### Moral framework

A moral value and a value criterion to how best achieve the value.

For example: A debate on the death penalty may have the following frameworks...

- Value: Life // Criterion: Minimizing human suffering
- Value: Justice // Criterion: Maximizing crime deterrence



## EXAMPLE RESOLUTIONS

Below are some examples of resolutions that speakers debate. Speakers will debate the same resolution for at least one month before it changes.

- Resolved: The United States ought to prohibit the extraction of fossil fuels from federal public lands and waters.
- Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.
- Resolved: The justices of the Supreme Court of the United States ought to be term-limited.
- Resolved: In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.

Use the link below for the most recent LD topic: <https://bit.ly/LDPFtopics>

Values	Criteria
Justice	Protecting the weakest in society Treating people as ends and not means Proportionate punishment
Life	Promoting good health Maximizing life expectancy
Liberty	Upholding democracy Ensuring the right to vote Upholding the right to free speech
Government Legitimacy	Closing the income gap Social contract (implicit contract between Gov't and citizens)

# LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN THE DEBATE?

Each side presents their case (constructive)

- Includes moral framework, definitions and arguments (called contentions)
- Contentions should include: (1) supporting evidence and development of logical arguments, and (2) impact - why does this argument matter?

Cross examination (X-Ex)

- Each side asks the other side questions
- Obtain clarification on definitions and contentions. Challenge opponent on their case
- This should include both sides verbally debating. Called clash. Expect back and forth arguments

Rebuttals

- Both sides have the opportunity to attack the other side's case and defend their own
- Arguments are generally a continuation of points identified in X-Ex
- Both sides have prep time to prepare their speeches (4 minutes each) - they can request this at time

Aff gets two rebuttal speeches. Neg gets one.

- "But that's not fair!!!!" Fear not, length of speaking time is the same

Final speeches usually contain a summary of main issues (called Key Voting Issues, or KVI's)

- KVI's are not mandatory, but good debaters use them to summarize why they think they've won

Below is a timeline of the round. Keep a stopwatch (not a timer) to keep track. The competitors are also allowed to keep their own time.

Affirmative Constructive	6 min.
Negative Cross-exam. of Affirmative	3 min.
Negative Constructive	7 min.
Affirmative Cross-exam. of Negative	3 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 min.
Negative Rebuttal	6 min.
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 min.

# LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

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## QUALITY POINTS

Judges will assign quality points to debaters. If their argument is...

**Superior:** assign 26-30 quality points

**Excellent:** assign 21-25 quality points

**Good:** assign 16-20 quality points

**Average:** assign 11-15 quality points

## RFD

RFD means “reason for decision”

RFD should start with identifying the winner by their code, the side of the argument, and a brief reason why they won. This let's Tabroom quickly see the winner and ensure that there is no mix up in identifying which side is which.

For instance: Team C07, Neg won the debate, primarily due to convincing me their framework was the most impactful on society.

## DO I NEED TO KNOW PHILOSOPHY?

- No!
- Expect to hear some philosophy (for instance, Locke Social Contract, Rawls Justice, Kant's categorical imperative, definition of utilitarianism and Aristotle to name a few), but the good debaters will explain what it means
- If they don't explain it well, then they'll probably lose!

## HOW DO I DECIDE WHO WON?

Consider the following...

- Who did the better job of connecting their arguments to their moral framework?
- Who better defended their case and planted seeds of doubt on the strength of their opponents?
- Who convinced you that their case had the greater impacts?
- Which case was the more logical and understandable?
- If you were in jail, who would you want advocating on your behalf to get you released?

Both sides will tell you that they won and how you must vote for them, but at the end of the day, only one opinion counts...**yours!**



# PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

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## TERMS TO KNOW IN PF

### Contention

There are four parts to an argument:

- Claim - the title given to the argument
- Data - evidence that supports the claim
- Warrant - within the evidence, 1-2 sentences that prove the claim true
- Impact - why the claim matters

### Low point win

This occurs if, for whatever reason, the person with less quality points than their adversary wins the round. This is rare.

## WHAT IS PF?

- Two person team vs. two person team
- Rounds last around 45 minutes
- Not memorized
- Public Forum debate is debate that focuses on topics of current national importance. Each team prepares arguments in favor of and against a given resolution. The resolution changes every couple of months. At each tournament, each team will debate a mixture of pro rounds (in favor of the resolution) and con rounds (against the resolution) depending on a coin flip that occurs each round.

## EXAMPLE RESOLUTIONS

Below are some examples of resolutions that speakers debate. Speakers will debate the same resolution for at least one month before it changes.

- Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its military presence in the Arctic.
- Resolved: The United States federal government should forgive all federal student loan debt.
- Resolved: The United States should adopt ranked-choice voting for its federal elections.
- Resolved: The United States Federal Government should ban the collection of personal data through biometric recognition technology.

Use the link below for the most recent PF topic: <https://bit.ly/LDPFtopics>

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN THE DEBATE?

At the beginning of the round, teams flip a coin. The winner of the coin flip has their pick of EITHER which side they debate, or if they are the first OR second speaking team.

### Each side presents their case (constructive)

- Evidence based, containing 1-3 contentions, which are reasons why the judge should vote for their side
- First speakers from team A and team B take turns
- Called the "constructives" because these are the ONLY two speeches in the round that are previously "constructed," meaning they are written before the speakers compete

### Crossfire

- Speaker 1 from team A and B ask alternating questions
- Obtain clarification on definitions and contentions. Challenge opponent on their case
- This should include both sides verbally debating. Expect back and forth arguments

### Rebuttals

- The second speakers from both teams take turns giving rebuttals
- Written while their partners are participating in crossfire
- Written to REFUTE their opponent's claims
- Unscripted, but should include some evidence, or examples to support the refutations on the opposing case
- Speakers can also request to use prep time. Each team is entitled to three minutes of prep during a round

### Summary

- First speakers from each team "summarize" the round
- Highlight the voters, which are the most important arguments in the case, and why they are winning them
- Reiterate their partner's refutations on the opponent's case and why they aren't winning those

### Final focus

- Second speakers from each team make their final appeal to the judge
- Repeat their partner's voters that they gave in the summary speech
- Refute their opponent's voters from their summary
- Close with something similar to, "For these reasons, please vote \_\_\_" (aff or neg)

Below is a timeline of the round. Keep a stopwatch (not a timer) to keep track. The competitors are also allowed to keep their own time.

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN THE DEBATE? (CONT.)

Below is a timeline of the round. Keep a stopwatch (not a timer) to keep track. The competitors are also allowed to keep their own time.

Speech	Time Limit	Purpose
Team A Speaker 1 – Constructive	4 minutes	Present the team's case
Team B Speaker 1 – Constructive	4 minutes	Present the team's case
Crossfire	3 minutes	Speaker 1 from Team A & B alternate asking and answering questions
Team A Speaker 2 – Rebuttal	4 minutes	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Team B Speaker 2 – Rebuttal	4 minutes	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Crossfire	3 minutes	Speaker 2 from Team A & B alternate asking and answering questions
Team A Speaker 1 – Summary	3 minutes	Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round
Team B Speaker 1 – Summary	3 minutes	Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes	All four debaters involved in a crossfire at once
Team A Speaker 2 – Final Focus	2 minutes	Explain reasons that you win the round
Team B Speaker 2 – Final Focus	2 minutes	Explain reasons that you win the round

\*Each team is entitled to three minutes of prep time during the round.

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## QUALITY POINTS

Judges will assign quality points to debaters. If their argument is...

**Outstanding:** assign 29-30 quality points

**Above average:** assign 27-28 quality points

**Average:** assign 24-26 quality points

**Below average:** assign 20-23 quality points

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