

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE (PF)

Debate Points Overall Scale:

6-15 points: Inappropriate, poor behavior.

If you give a score in this range, you must explain why to tournament staff.

16-19 points: Very weak, could not engage in the debate

20-23 points: Needs improvement

24-26 points: Good

27-28 points: Excellent

29-30 points: Outstanding



Speaker Points	1 - Poor	2 - Below Average	3 - Average	4 - Above Average	5 - Excellent	Total
Performance	Very nervous, unclear speech, frequent pauses, lack of eye contact.	Some nervousness, inconsistent clarity, occasional pauses, limited eye contact.	Confident delivery, clear speech, minimal pauses, adequate eye contact.	Very confident delivery, articulate speech, few pauses, strong eye contact.	Extremely confident, compelling delivery, fluent speech, no pauses, strong and engaging eye contact.	
Organization	Very disorganized, unclear structure, difficult to follow.	Somewhat disorganized, weak structure, challenging to follow at times.	Generally organized, logical structure, mostly easy to follow.	Well-organized, clear structure, easy to follow.	Exceptionally well-organized, flawless structure, effortless to follow.	
Evidence	Little to no relevant evidence provided, unsupported claims.	Limited relevant evidence, some unsupported claims.	Adequate relevant evidence, mostly supported claims.	Strong relevant evidence, well-supported claims.	Abundant, highly relevant evidence, all claims well-supported.	
Argumentation	Weak arguments, significant logical flaws, easily refuted. No rebuttal to opponent's claims.	Some weak arguments, inconsistencies in logic. Limited rebuttal to opponent's claims.	Generally sound arguments, minor inconsistencies. Some quality rebuttals, but some opponent's claims left unexamined.	Strong arguments, logical coherence. Opponent's claims addressed.	Compelling arguments, flawless logic, very difficult to refute. All opponent's claims addressed, examined and persuasively countered.	
Questioning	Ineffective questioning, little engagement with opponents.	Limited effectiveness in questioning, minimal engagement.	Adequate questioning, some engagement with opponents.	Effective questioning, good engagement with opponents.	Highly effective questioning, deep engagement with opponents, adept at exposing weaknesses.	
Conduct	Very disrespectful, inappropriate behavior.	Somewhat disrespectful, occasional inappropriate behavior.	Generally respectful, minor instances of inappropriate behavior.	Respectful conduct throughout.	Exemplary conduct, respectful at all times, sets a positive tone.	

SPEECH STRUCTURE

Each debater delivers a series of constructive speeches and rebuttals. The structure of speeches follows this pattern:

- ◆ **First Speaker (Team A):** Constructive speech presenting arguments in favor or against of the resolution. **4 minutes**
- ◆ **First Speaker (Team B):** Constructive speech presenting arguments in favor or against the resolution and rebutting the affirmative's arguments. **4 minutes**
- ◆ **Crossfire:** A period of direct questioning between the first speakers of opposing teams. **3 min**
- ◆ **Second Speaker (Team A):** Constructive speech further developing their arguments and rebutting their opponent's arguments. **4 minutes**
- ◆ **Second Speaker (Team B):** Constructive speech further developing their arguments and rebutting their opponent's arguments. **4 minutes**
- ◆ **Crossfire:** A period of direct questioning between the second speakers of opposing teams. **3 min**
- ◆ **Summary (First Speaker, Team A):** A period to summarize the team's key arguments. **2 minutes**
- ◆ **Summary (First Speaker, Team B):** A period to summarize the team's key arguments. **2 minutes**
- ◆ **Grand Crossfire:** All four debaters are free to question the other side. The first question is posed by the first summary speaker. **3 minutes**
- ◆ **Final Focus (2nd Speaker, Team A):** The last and shortest speech summarizing the most important arguments. **2 minutes**
- ◆ **Final Focus (2nd Speaker, Team B):** The last and shortest speech summarizing the most important arguments. **2 minutes**

Total of three minutes of prep time per team.

COIN TOSS

A coin toss will be used to determine the organization of the round. Winner selects either affirmative/negative OR speaking order. The remaining option of affirmative/negative OR speaking order is chosen by the team which lost the coin toss.

ROUND GUIDE

- 1) Students should not be in the room until you are. Observers are allowed but they may not disrupt, help, or record.
- 2) Arrange two sets of desks in the front for each team to sit or stand and debate.
- 3) **Start the session on Speechwire.**
- 4) Set up notes with competitor's names and get timer ready.
- 5) Ask students if they want any cues for a certain amount of time remaining – example, a knock on the desk at 30 seconds left.
- 6) Follow the Time Limits strictly for debate. Use the rubric to guide how you grant debate points 1-30 on Speechwire.
- 7) The winning team of the debate should be the one who got more debate points. **Points can be tied, ranks cannot. Do not share feedback with competitors during competition.**
- 8) **After you input rank and points, SUBMIT your ballot on Speechwire. The next round cannot begin until you do this. Please do it immediately. 😊**
- 9) Go back to the Judge's Lounge and fill in feedback on Speechwire.