

Instructions for Judges

- **TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Please refrain from answering a cell phone, listening to music, or using a computer during the round. These speakers deserve your full attention.
- **SET ASIDE YOUR OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS ON THE TOPIC.** Remember that the debaters have to debate BOTH sides of every resolution.
- **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ORAL CRITIQUES** after a round is over (even if the debaters ask for them). They hold up the entire tournament and can create problems for tournament directors.
- **WRITE CONSTRUCTIVE, RESPECTFUL COMMENTS** on the ballot. Blank ballots or ballots that say “oral critique” are not acceptable unless otherwise instructed to do so by the tournament director.
- **PLEASE DO NOT TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT YOUR DECISION** until AFTER you have filled out your ballot – even if you are on a panel! Your decision should be yours and yours alone.
- **TIMELINESS:** Please be on time for your rounds. The small delays always accumulate and cause unnecessary and sometimes lengthy delays. Please do your best to keep the tournament on schedule.
- **DO NOT TRADE YOUR BALLOT WITH ANOTHER JUDGE FOR ANY REASON.** If there is a problem, please return to the judges’ table so that it can be corrected.
- **PLEASE WAIT 15 MINUTES** for missing speakers to arrive before leaving the room after the round is over. Some speakers may be cross entered! This is especially important during the SEMI and FINAL rounds. But it is the speaker’s duty to inform the judge if they are cross entered.
- **BALLOT PICK-UP AND RETURNS:** Pick up and return ballots to the tab table. It is important to return your ballots as soon as possible after each round. Returning ballots after each flight is not necessary.

Debate

CX DEBATE: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States.

This is policy debate. Generally the Affirmative presents a policy according to the resolution.

LINCOLN DOUGLAS: Resolved: Economic sanctions ought not be used to achieve foreign policy objectives.

This debate is centered around values, philosophies and ethics. The Affirmative has the burden of proof and the Negative side has the burden of clashing with the Affirmative. Both sides have the obligation of refuting each other’s arguments.

PUBLIC FORUM: Resolved: In the United States, organized political lobbying does more harm than good.

This style of debate is based upon CNN’s crossfire debate. Speaking style should be clear and understandable by the general public.

Times

Lincoln-Douglas	Min.	Cross Examination	Min.	Public Forum	Min.
1 st Affirmative Const.	6	1 st Affirmative Const.	8	Constructive Speech (Team A)	4
Cross Examination	3	Cross Examination	3	Constructive (Team B)	4
1 st Negative Const.	7	1 st Negative Constructive	8	Crossfire	3
Cross Examination	3	Cross Examination	3	Speech 2 (Team A)	4
1 st Affirmative Rebuttal	4	2 nd Affirmative Const.	8	Speech 2 (Team B)	4
1 st Negative Rebuttal	6	Cross Examination	3	Crossfire	3
2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal	3	2 nd Negative Constructive	8	Summary Speech Team A	2
		Cross Examination	3	Summary Speech Team B	2
		1 st Negative Rebuttal	5	Grand Crossfire	3
		1 st Affirmative Rebuttal	5	Final Focus Team A	1
		2 nd Negative Rebuttal	5	Final Focus Team B	1
		2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal	5		
Prep Time (each side)	4	Prep Time (each side)	8	Prep Time (each side)	2

Our sincere thanks! Without you, this event would not be possible!

Instructions for Judges

TIME SIGNALS: “Three down” means show three fingers when there are three minutes remaining, two when there are two left, and one when there is one minute remaining. At the end of time say “GRACE” out loud. When the grace period is over, say “TIME!” out loud. At that time, the speaker should stop. If you need assistance, please ask one of our tournament workers.

STUDENT CONGRESS: The judges’ job in Student Congress is to rank the speeches they hear between 1 and 6 (SIX IS BEST) based on content, organization, presentation, etc. Then the judge will rank all the speakers in the room based on their overall performance in Congress (one is best). If you need assistance, please ask one of our tournament workers.

Prose Interpretation: Max time 7 min / 30 sec. grace. The selection (a published piece or collection of pieces) should be of literary merit. The introduction must be memorized, but the piece itself is to be read from a binder. At time, the interpreter must complete the sentence and stop. A selection used in this event may not be used in any other event.

Poetry Interpretation: Max time 7 min / 30 sec. grace. The selection should be a poem or collection of poems. The introduction must be memorized, but the piece itself is to be read from a binder. At time, the interpreter must complete the sentence and stop. A selection used in this event may not be used in any other event. The contestant is NOT bound by any UIL categories in this event.

Impromptu: Contestants will draw 3 topics from an envelope and pick 1, then place the other two back. They have up to 3 minutes to prepare a speech that is a maximum of 4 minutes long. An impromptu speech, with topic selection varied round by round, section by section, may be of a humorous or serious nature.

Duet Improvisation: Teams will select from three topics and have three minutes to prepare. An introduction must precede the performance and the entire performance cannot exceed five minutes in length.

Extemporaneous Speaking (United States and International): Max time 7 min / 30 sec. grace. Students will enter the room with their speech prepared. They should hand their topic to the judge and begin. Students have spent 30 minutes preparing a speech answering a question related to U.S. or International current events.

Dramatic Interpretation: The time limit is 10 minutes which includes an introduction. This is an individual category in which the selections are dramatic in nature. Selections shall be cuttings from published-printed novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or any other printed-published materials. Presentations must be memorized, without props or costumes.

Original Oratory: Max time 10 min. / 30 sec. grace. Orators are expected to research and speak intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some profit to the audience, about a topic of significance. Although many orations deal with a current problem and propose a solution this is not the only acceptable form of oratory.

Humorous Interpretation: Max time 10 min. / 30 sec. grace. The rules for this event are the same as Dramatic Interp, except the selection must be humorous in nature.

Duet Acting: Max time 12 minutes / 30 sec. grace. This must be a cutting from a play, novel, poem, or short story. No costumes or props are allowed, other than two chairs. Students may not use the same selection for duet and another event.

Duo Interpretation: Max time 10 minutes / 30 sec. grace. This is a two-person category in which the selection may be either humorous or dramatic in nature. All other rules are the same as Dramatic Interpretation. Actors do not DIRECTLY interact with one another which is not the case in DUET.

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