

Debate Judge Cheat Sheet

These pages cover the following items

- **Make sure that you are familiar with the speech times and orders for the form of debate you are judging**
- **Your three jobs as a judge**
- **What to do BEFORE the round**
- **What to do AFTER the round**

I. Debate Speech Times and Order

A. Public Forum Debate:

First Speaker -- Team A.....	4 Minutes
First Speaker -- Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire (1st question by speaker A1).....	3 Minutes
Second Speaker -- Team A.....	4 Minutes
Second Speaker -- Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire (first question by A2).....	3 Minutes
Summary -- First Speaker -- Team A.....	3 Minutes
Summary -- First Speaker -- Team B.....	3 Minutes
Grand Crossfire (1st question from Team A).....	3 Minutes
Final Focus -- Second Speaker -- Team A	2 Minutes
Final Focus -- Second Speaker -- Team B.....	2 Minutes
Preparation Time per school unit or team.....	3 Minutes

Note: Prior to EVERY round, a coin is tossed (either in-person or virtually). The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins. Teams get no more than 5 (five) minutes to make a decision regarding sides and/or speaking position.

II. Jobs As a Judge

A. Decide who won the round

Judge based solely on what you hear in the round. Set aside your opinions, biases, and outside knowledge. Teams should be debating each other, not the judge. Take notes (flow) the arguments made in the debate. How this is done may vary between debate types, but may typically be done on paper or on the computer using Excel or a similar software program. If a team does not respond to an opponent's argument, then they have conceded that argument. This will apply to both analytics and carded evidence alike.

Note: During the round, the judge should not engage in substantive discussion of the arguments with the debaters or other judges (e.g., do not ask the debaters or fellow judges about the arguments being run or if a particular argument was made). Only after the ballot(s) are entered may you discuss the arguments.

B. Award speaker points

Award each speaker in the round speaker points. The point systems will vary between forms of debate.

Public Forum: Speaker points will range between 26 and 30 in half point increments (but the allowed range may differ based on the tournament). In the case of cheating, ethics violations, etc. lower points may be given, but may require tournament director approval/assistance.

A. i. For sides and speaking order in Public Forum

A coin is tossed (either in-person or virtually) Tabroom conducts the coin flip over the internet and the debate teams select sides and speaking order without the judge's involvement. Typically, Tabroom will complete the coin flip at many tournaments. When you get to your room, (a) reload the Tabroom webpage displaying your ballot so that it displays updated information based on that virtual coin flip; and (b) verbally check with the debaters that the information on your ballot is consistent with their understanding. The ballot displays the team speaking first above the team speaking second, and toward the Left side of each team's listing, it specifies the side they will defend (PRO or CON).

B. Be sure you know which team is which.

For Public Forum, here are a few suggestions:

- Ask the PRO / AFF to ALWAYS sit to your LEFT in front of you and the CON / NEG to always sit to your right. 0
- Before the round starts, verbally confirm the team designations.
- Write the team designations at the top of your notes (flow) sheet.
- Write down which debater is speaking first and second on each team so that you can properly award speaking points after the round.

IV. Judging logistics - What to do AFTER the round

Enter your decision when the round concludes. This should be done prior to speaking to the debaters, before writing out comments on your ballot, and before you provide oral feedback. Depending on the form of debate that you are judging and at what tournament, whether you disclose your decision may vary. If you are unsure, please consult the tournament director at the start of the tournament. The information may also be present in the tournament invite.

- Select the winning team from the drop-down at the bottom of the ballot and click on the radio button indicating their side of the resolution.
- Enter points for each speaker