

DEBATE

Event Description

Judges are some of the most vital contributors to the speech and debate community. Without judges, tournaments would not be possible.

ProTip: Conscious Style Guide

All judges are encouraged to be mindful of how they provide feedback to students verbally and/or in writing. One valuable resource we use at the NSDA is the [Conscious Style Guide](http://www.consciousstyleguide.com). We encourage all community members, especially those providing constructive criticism to students, to consider the words they use. Simply put, words matter. Learn more about the words you choose by checking out www.consciousstyleguide.com.

Debate (PF, LD, CX)

In debate, each round will have two debaters, or two teams, depending on the event. Prior to the start of the round, the judge will pick up a **ballot** from the tournament organizer.

The **ballot** is where judges will record their thoughts on each performance, suggestions for improvement, and general feedback for the performer. At the end of the tournament, each school will receive all the **ballots** written about their competitors so contestants can use your feedback to improve!

There are two sides to every debate, one side supports the resolution being debated, the other side negates the resolution. In Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the sides will have been decided before the round. In Public Forum Debate sides are determined by a coin flip at the beginning of the round.

All debate events have a unique order to the round, divided into three parts: **speeches**, **cross-examination**, and **prep time**. **Speeches** are where the bulk of the debating is done, with each team presenting and reinforcing their arguments while refuting their opponents. It is common for judges to **flow** a debate, which means the judges will take notes about the speeches in order to keep track of the debate.

Cross-Examination is a period of time where debater's can ask each other questions. There are some differences between kinds of debate, but, the purpose of **cross-examination** remains the same; asking questions that will allow the debater to make stronger arguments. It is up to you whether or not to **flow** this part. Typically, this is not a time for debaters to be making arguments, instead, it is to clarify their opponents position's.

Each event gives debaters a set amount of **prep time**, where competitors can take a moment to prepare for the next part of the debate. Competitors can take **prep time** between speeches and should notify the judges when they begin and end prep.

The judge will watch the entirety of the debate and then decide which side won. When filling out the **ballot**, you may be asked to assign competitors speaker points, typically on a scale from 20-30, with 30 being outstanding. After the decision has been made, judges should return their ballots to the tournament organizer.

During preliminary rounds of the tournament, there is usually only one judge per round. However, when student's begin competing in elimination rounds, rounds will have more than one judge. This is called a **panel**.

Debate Events at a Glance

Partner	Topic	Aff./Case Design	Neg. Strategy	Other
Yes	Debaters debate the topic below for one season. Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.	1 st speech: Each team gets to offer a plan. They support the plan with a collection of evidence and analysis supporting the stock issues. They may also offer advantages of their plan over the status quo.	Defend the status quo! Challenge each stock issue and offer disadvantages to the affirmative plan.	Typically novice topics until Thanksgiving (available on IHSPA site) Rounds are 74 minutes long.
		Yes	A new topic is debated each month (except Feb.) The 2017 October topic is listed below. Resolved: Deployment of anti-missile systems is in South Korea's best interest.	Create a case with 2-3 reasons the resolution is true. After the constructives, challenge the negative's assertions.
No	Each topic is debated for two months during the school year. The 2017 October topic (<i>novice & varsity</i>) is listed below. Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be compulsory.		The case is guided by the pursuit of a lofty value, justice, for example. The presentation of the value is followed by a criterion and contentions. This value structure is defended and debaters challenge the strategy of opponents.	
	Lincoln Douglas			

Debate Events at a Glance

<p>Congress</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Bills and resolutions vary. Most tournaments use 4-6 pieces of legislation posted on insfa.org.</p>	<p>Present a short persuasive speech. This may be prepared in advance or prepared during the round. It may be similar to a PF speech, or it may be rebuttal to what has been said in the round. It could be a combination of case and refutation.</p>
<p>World Schools</p>	<p>The event is a mix of topics released at the tournament (impromptu motions) and prior to the tournament (prepared motions)</p> <p>Yes, 2-4 ³⁻⁵ of them</p>	<p>Teams prepare position speeches as if they were members of a legislative body. One team, the proposition team, supports the topic statement, and the other team, the opposition, rejects the topic claim. It is not unusual for a team to finish the case in the second speech for its side.</p>	<p>No assigned speaker order or duties or side</p> <p>No single adversary</p> <p>Debate on each item is approx. 60 minutes long.</p> <p>No preparation time or cross examination period set aside -- Teams blend points of information into the first six speeches.</p> <p>Rounds are 56 minutes long.</p>

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. Lincoln-Douglas is also known as "One-Person Debate."
2. Only two speakers are involved, one fulfilling the affirmative case responsibilities and the other, the negative. Emphasis is placed upon the issues involved rather than upon strategy in developing the case. The statement of the topic is a resolution of value rather than of policy. This results in emphasizing logic, theory, and philosophy while eliminating "plan" arguments. A wealth of evidence should not be used, but research supported by good background reading is necessary.
3. The debate topic will be the current National Speech and Debate Association January/February Lincoln-Douglas topic.
4. Format
 - Affirmative 6 minute constructive
 - Negative 3 minute cross examination
 - Negative 7 minute constructive/rebuttal
 - Affirmative 3 minute cross examination
 - Affirmative 4 minute rebuttal
 - Negative 6 minute rebuttal
 - Affirmative 3 minute rebuttal
5. Each debater will be allowed a total of four (4) minutes preparation time during the course of the debate.

Public Forum Debate

1. A Public Forum team consists of two students
2. A Public Forum debate round is a contest between two teams.
3. The resolution debated will be the January topic as selected and presented by the National Speech and Debate Association.
4. To begin a round of debate, the judge shall flip a coin in the presence of all four debaters. The team winning the coin toss will then choose either the side (Pro/Con) they want to represent OR what order they would like to speak (First/Second). The other team then chooses from the remaining option. (It is important to note that unlike policy debate and L.D., there is no presumption of which side speaks first.)
5. The first speakers of each team deliver a four-minute speech. After the first two speeches, a three-minute crossfire occurs where both debaters are allowed to question and comment on their opponent's speech. The speaker who went first should begin the crossfire period with the first question. The speakers should stand for individual crossfire. The second speakers then deliver a four-minute speech, followed by a three-minute crossfire structured as noted above. Then the first speakers deliver two-minute summaries. The summaries are followed by a three-minute Grand Crossfire, where all four debaters are allowed to question and comment on the other side's position. Again, the team who spoke first should ask the first question. During the Grand Crossfire, all four debaters should remain seated. The round is finished when the second speakers each deliver a two-minute Final Focus to finalize their team's position. There are no content limits set on the Final Focus speeches.
6. Format
 - Team A Speaker 1: 4 minute constructive
 - Team B Speaker 1: 4 minute constructive
 - Crossfire: 3 minutes
 - Team A Speaker 2: 4 minute constructive
 - Team B Speaker 2: 4 minute constructive
 - Crossfire: 3 minutes
 - Team A Speaker 1: 2 minute summary
 - Team B Speaker 1: 2 minute summary
 - Grand Crossfire: 3 minutes
 - Team A Speaker 2: 2 minute Final Focus
 - Team B Speaker 2: 2 minute Final Focus
7. Total preparation time for each team during the round will be 2 minutes.

World Schools Teams

- a) Each team will be comprised of 3-5 debaters. All members of the team are allowed to participate during the preparation portion of the impromptu round.
- b) During the round, only 3 members of the team are allowed to compete. The extra debaters are allowed to observe the round, but are **NOT** allowed to participate in any way and may not take notes or flow the round.
- c) During preliminary rounds, sides will be set by the tournament program. Elimination round sides will be determined by a coin toss with the winning team selecting which side they want to defend.
- d) The proposition or Government team advocates for the motion to be debated. The opposition team opposes the motion to be debated.
- e) Before the round begins, each team must declare to the judge the order of speakers, including the reply speech.

Speeches

- a) Each speaker delivers an 8-minute substantive speech to introduce arguments and counter opponents' arguments.
- b) Each team then delivers a 4-minute reply speech, with the opposition going first followed by the proposition. **ONLY** the first or second speaker can deliver the reply speech. The third speaker is **NOT** allowed to give the reply speech.
- c) Each team should present three main arguments supporting their side, with two arguments presented by the first speaker and the third argument presented by the second speaker of each team.
- d) During each constructive speech, the opposing team is permitted to request Points of Information (POI's) of the speaker.
 - (1) A POI is only allowed to be requested during the middle 6 minutes of the speech.
 - (2) The first and last minute of the constructive speech is protected time. No POI is allowed to be requested during this time or during Reply Speeches.
 - (3) Note-A POI is an opportunity for the opposing team to ask a question of the speaker or to make a statement in opposition. A POI can be asked by any member of the opposing team. The POI can be accepted or denied by the speaker with a simple "No, thank you" or hand motion.
 - (4) It is considered bad form to harass the opposing team with POIs occurring too frequently while convention also suggests that a speaker take 2-3 POIs during their speech at their discretion.

World Schools Motions

- a) Topics for the state tournament will be determined by the World Schools Chairperson and Committee.
- b) At the state tournament, the order of motions will be as follows:
 - (1) Round 1 Prelims-Prepared Motion
 - (2) Round 2 Prelims-Impromptu Motion
 - (3) Round 3 Prelims-Prepared Motion
 - (4) Quarterfinal-Impromptu Motion
 - (5) Semi-final-Prepared
 - (6) Final Round-Impromptu

- c) For rounds involving impromptu motions, teams will meet in a designated location where the Event Chairperson will announce the motion to all teams present and then employ the coin toss to determine sides.
- (1) Proposition teams will prepare in the competition room.
 - (2) Opposition teams will prepare in assigned classrooms.
 - (3) Teams are allowed to use a MAXIMUM of two references
 - (a) These sources should be of a reference nature: Black's Law Dictionary, Webster's Dictionary, almanac, textbook, etc.
 - (4) All members of the team are allowed to participate during the preparation segment of the round but only 3 may participate in the debate segment.
 - (5) No electronic devices are allowed including cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. Use of such devices may result in forfeiture of the round and/or disqualification from the tournament.
- Electronic devices are not allowed during debate rounds.

Policy Debate

1. A team is two students.
2. A round of debate is a contest between two teams.
3. The question shall be the current national question or the question as determined by the National Federation procedure. In case of no determination by the National Federation, the Board of Directors has the power to determine the topic.
4. Each speaker shall have eight minutes for a constructive argument, alternating from affirmative to negative. Following each constructive speech, one opponent will cross-examine the speaker for three minutes. The questioner shall control the time and may interrupt the respondent but should not comment on the answers. It shall be the prerogative of the individual team members to determine the speaking order in cross-examination and rebuttal. No fixed order is mandatory. Each debater shall present a five-minute rebuttal, cross-examine for three minutes, and be cross-examined for three minutes.
5. Format:
 - Affirmative 8 minute constructive
 - Negative 3 minute cross examination
 - Negative 8 minute constructive
 - Affirmative 3 minute cross examination
 - Affirmative 8 minute constructive
 - Negative 3 minute cross examination
 - Negative 8 minute constructive
 - Affirmative 3 minute cross examination
 - Negative 5 minute rebuttal
 - Affirmative 5 minute rebuttal
 - Negative 5 minute rebuttal
 - Affirmative 5 minute rebuttal
6. Each team will be allowed 5 minutes of preparation time during the round.

Congress

In Congressional Debate, judges preside over a room of student's as they simulate a session of Congress. Prior to the start of the round, the judge will pick up a set of **ballots** from the tournament organizer. These **ballots** are where judges will record their thoughts on each performance, suggestions for improvement, and general feedback for the performer. At the end of the tournament, each school will receive all the **ballots** written about their competitors so contestants can use your feedback to improve!

A typical Congress session lasts longer than rounds for other speech and debate events, and rounds are usually divided into morning and afternoon session. As student's debate proposed bills and resolutions, judges evaluate each speech that is given during the round. Congressional Debate uses *Robert's Rules of Order*, a manual describing parliamentary procedure, which most competitors will be familiar with. However, you don't need to be an expert to judge Congressional Debate! At the beginning of each session, each house will elect a **Presiding Officer (PO)**, a competitor who will abstain from speaking in order to orchestrate the proceedings. The **PO** will do things like keep time, call for speakers, count votes, etc. Because the **PO** does not give any speeches, judges are given a special ballot to evaluate the **PO**, which should be done at the end of the session. At the end of the session, judges should compile all their **ballots** and return them to the tournament organizer.