

## Judging Lincoln Douglas (LD) Debate

LD debate is a one-on-one debate affirming and negating a topic, which is called the resolution.

1. Always evaluate the ideas presented in the round and try not to allow your personal feelings sway your decision.
2. You are the judge. The debaters' job is to convince you. If a debater is too fast or too complicated, it is their mistake for not adapting to their audience.
3. The students are assigned the topic and which side they must present (affirmative or negative). They do not choose which side they personally prefer, so they must be prepared to present either side of the topic.
4. Each debater should uphold his/her value presented in their opening speech. A value is typically matched with a criterion, or standard, for measuring the value.
5. The judge should listen for persuasiveness. Each debater will present ideas and support those ideas with evidence and/or analysis. Organization is also key to effective communication.
6. Please do not tell the debaters who won the round or give them an oral critique afterward. Instead, write your comments on the ballot and let them know what you liked and disliked and why you voted the way you did.
7. When looking at the ballot there are a few items that *must* be completed:
  - a) A decision on who wins- you will be asked to decide who did the better job of debating; there cannot be a tie
  - b) Assign speaker points- these points reflect who you think did a better job of speaking (some judges deduct points for rude behavior). A "low point win" means one debater may have been a better speaker, but you gave the win to the other debater because you thought they had a stronger case.

### **TIMES:**

- 6 minutes Affirmative case
- 3 minutes Cross examination (CX) - negative asks affirmative questions
- 7 minutes Negative case
- 3 minutes CX- affirmative asks negative questions
- 4 minutes Rebuttal- Affirmative rebuttal
- 6 minutes Rebuttal- Negative rebuttal
- 3 minutes Rebuttal- 2<sup>nd</sup> Affirmative rebuttal

**PREP TIME:** Each speaker is given 4 minutes of preparation time. They use this time to prepare their thoughts, review what they would like to say, and to get organized.

*Thank you for judging!*