

Judge Script for Elem Debates

**Right after postings and the teams have come to your room,
Please read out loud to all participants right before the 1st Pro begins:**

Note that if a team is late, give a few minutes grace but if they don't arrive, tell the tournament helper.

- (1) "Welcome to this round of debate. I am ___(your name)___ from___(school name)
- (2) At all times, treat each other with courtesy and respect.
- (3) No pictures or recording during the debate; No phones-keep sounds off.
- (4) Each debater will present a case speech, a response speech, and a defend and weigh speech. Each of you also asks and answers questions. You may use laptops and any printed materials you prepared. **You may use the internet including for AI but NOT after the Response Huddle.**
- (5) Debaters may not speak to teammates who are speaking but can pass notes.
- (6) At the end of the debate, I will decide, email the winner and points, and then tell you which team won, and provide some individual feedback. I will not disclose speaker points. Those are posted in the results after the tournament finishes along with online comments that I will type after the debate.
- (7) Any questions?Let's begin the round with the Case Huddle.
- (8) Okay, the 4 minutes is up. First pro case speech begins now. First con debater remember that you will respond to this case."

Judges do the following during and after the debate.

During the Debate: Listen attentively and equally to each participant. Avoid your phone and keep sounds off. Take notes of the arguments and responses and do your best to maintain an open mind in considering the points. Remember that debate is primarily concerned with the arguments, not how well they were delivered.

[Topic, Rules, Times, and What they do in each speech](#)

[Missing Debater\(s\)? What to do](#)

After the debate:

Make a decision of who won. Based on your notes and listening to the arguments, do your best to weigh the two sides' arguments and responses to come to a conclusion about which side won the debate. Don't dismiss or reject arguments based on your own thoughts/refutations—do it only on the basis of the arguments and responses the debaters presented. [Tips for Making Decisions of who won](#)

Parents/Families/Friends of one side making you feel pressure? Feel bad for a team eg they have less speakers? VOTE ON THE ARGUMENTS NOT YOUR SYMPATHIES and if needed, leave the room for a moment to make and email your decision.

Give speaker points based on a 61-99 scale; scores below 71 are for speeches needing very significant improvement; scores above 89 are for exceptional, highly skilled presentations. Most scores are in the 71 to 89 range. [Tips for Giving Speaking Points](#)

Then . . .

First, Respond to your emailed ballot including who won and points for each speaker.

Second, Talk with the debaters, state who won, which arguments convinced you, and give at least 1 compliment and 1 improvement suggestion to each debater. [Tips for Giving Feedback \(Who won and why plus Compliments and Improvements\)](#) After this, you should dismiss the debaters to leave.

Third, Complete [The Elementary Online Comments Form](#).