

# Judge Script for LD Debates

## Right after postings are announced . . .

The debaters meet in your room and the debate should begin as soon as possible. *(if a team is late, give a few minutes grace but then tell the tournament helper)*

## Please read out loud to all participants right before the 1<sup>st</sup> Pro begins:

- (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) You may use laptops and any printed materials you prepared. You must be ready to share files you have read when requested. Confirm this now by sharing a file with each other. (wait until this is done)
- (5) At the end of the debate, I will decide based on the arguments you presented, 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 comments that I will type after the debate.
- (6) Any questions? .....Let's begin the round with the first aff case speech."

## 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.

[LD 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](#)

Give speaker points based on a 61-99 scale; scores below 70 are for speeches needing very significant improvement; scores above 89 are for exceptional, highly skilled presentations. Most scores are in the 75 to 85 range. [Tips for Giving Speaking Points](#) *(if you usually judge on a 24-30 scale, think of turning 27.3 into 73 and 28.8 into 88).*

### Then . . .

**First,** EMAIL REPLY 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 LD Debate Comments Form](#).