

# Judge Script for Public Forum Debates

## Right after postings are announced . . .

The teams 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) FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ONLY: Debaters present cases in the first speeches; then responses to their opponent's cases in the second speeches; then defend their cases in the third "summary" speeches; and then show their arguments are winning and why they outweigh their opponents' arguments in the final focus speeches.
- (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 will be sent to your coaches along with comments that I will type after the debate.
- (7) Any questions? .....Let's begin the round with the first pro 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.

[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](#)

### 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 Public Forum Online Comments Form](#).