

Judge Training

Judge "Cheat Sheet"



What is Speech & Debate (Forensics)

The term “forensic” means “relating to, used in, or appropriate for courts of law or public discussion; of, used in, or relating to formal argument or rhetoric.”

Forensic speech is speech meant to be presented before an audience and a judge. Whether it is argumentative, persuasive, or interpretive, it ought to show evidence of thoughtful analysis of the subject matter.



What is Speech & Debate (Forensics)

Speech and Debate encompasses
three major categories:

Speech Events

Interpretation (“Interp”) Events

Debate Events



A Typical NFCFL Tournament

NFCFL tournaments (as well as many other local tournaments) typically take place on Saturdays, hosted by local schools.

It will comprise of 4 rounds of debate/speech/interp OR 2 sessions of congress split by a lunch.

You may be placed in any or all rounds or sessions that your pool is eligible.



Who and what will be judge?

Your coach will have designated your pool as...

- PF or LD Debate (which will also be responsible for Extemp and World Schools).
- Individual Events/IE (Speech, Interp, Congress)
- Flex (Can Judge Anything!)

You will not judge any student from your affiliated school, and if in IE you will not judge the same event twice if possible.



BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT

When your coach schedules you to judge make certain that you check your email for an invitation to confirm your Speechwire account, and finish the setup process. (You only need to do this the first time)

Read up and review judge training materials for the pool you will be judging in.

Make certain to come with your device (computer preferably), chargers, and pen and paper for notes.



TOURNAMENT DAY

When you arrive...

- Come to the judge's lounge (typically the media center of the school).
- Check in with your coach (they will check in for your team).
- Listen for judge instructions and announcements.
- Login to live.speechwire.com and your email to check for ballots.



SW SpeechWire™ Online Tournaments

Live online tournaments on SpeechWire

WHSFA Theatre adjudication

Click the title of a play below to open up your electronic ballot and view the play.

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Speech, debate and congress adjudication

You don't have any e-ballots assigned to you yet! Check back later!

Your account

[Log out](#)

[Manage your account on SpeechWire.com](#)

IMPORTANT ISSUES

No photography or recordings are allowed in rounds.

Please do not critique students' clothing or appearance, if there is something inappropriate please make Tab Staff aware.

Do not watch other rounds of the event(s) you are judging as you might end up judging those students later.

Equity Issues

- Treat all students and their performances the same.
- Be a blank slate, do not judge students debates or speeches on your preconceived notions.

Judging Speech and Interpretation (IE)



NCFL Events

- Declamation
- Dramatic Performance
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Oratorical Interpretation
- Original Oratory

NON-NCFL Qualifying Events

- Informational Speaking
- Program Oral Interpretation

IE Basics

With the exception of Extemporaneous Speaking, all categories have a 10 minute time limit. Extemporaneous Speaking has a 7 minute time limit.

Every category has a 30 second grace period. If a student speaks for more than 30 seconds beyond the grace period, they can no longer place 1st in the round, but they may place 2nd. There is no other penalty for going over time.

Time signals are always given in Extemp, and are often requested in all categories. This is a courtesy we offer.

What is your job?

The job of the judge is ranking our your panel from first to last based on the merits of their performances and your task will be watching their performances to decide which pieces were best conceived and delivered.

Time Signals



30 Seconds

Time



Countdown - Min. Remaining

IE Basics Cont...

Every round you judge will require you to rank students. Ranks will be based on the number of students in the room, with the top student being ranked 1st. *You may not tie rank points.*

You will also issue “speaker points” in every category. We generally ask that you issue speaker points between 90-100. You *may* tie speaker points, but lower-ranking students may not receive higher speaker points than those who ranked above them.

Types of Speeches

Limited Prep

Speeches are not crafted in advance or memorized. Students draw a topic and have a limited amount of time to prepare the speech.

- Mixed Extemporaneous

Look for...

- a. Well-structured with thoughtful analysis.
- b. Clear thesis.
- c. Supporting documentation.

Public Speaking

Students write the speech themselves.

Memorized.

- Original Oratory (creative/persuasive)
- Informative (informs)

Look for:

- a. A clear thesis (point/message)
- b. Is the speech inclusive in its rhetoric?
- c. Does it explain the impact on others?
- d. Do you understand why the competitor felt it was an important topic?

For All Speech Events



Walking – This should be used for emphasis, and should appear natural and unforced. Walking usually occurs at transition points, but there are no rules about this.

Hand gestures – These should appear natural and not contrived. They should add to the general feeling of the speech.

Eye contact – Students should make eye contact with everyone in the room.

Vocal modulation – Speakers should make effective use of tone, volume, pace, and general articulation.

Facial expressions – Speech events are not interpretation categories, so they should not be overly dramatic, but facial expressions should convey appropriate emotion and draw the audience into the speech.

Interpretation

Interpretation

Students cut existing literature and and perform a cohesive interpretation.

Memorized.

Dramatic Interpretation

Humorous Interpretation

Oral Interpretation (mixed)

Program Oral Interpretation

Duo Interpretation (two students)

Look for:

- a. Dramatic structure (can you see a story arc?)
- b. Does the physical performance enhance the story?
- c. Does how they play/voice the characters enhance the story?
- d. Intentional use of pauses, volume, rate of speech, etc to enhance the story

For All Interp Events



Students create scenes through facial expressions, vocals, body movement, and use of space in the room (except in OI). No props or costumes are permitted. OI and POI use a binder.

You will often see dramatic and humorous pieces in the same round. Neither should be automatically favored over the other.

Students will often play multiple characters.

Characters should be clearly delineated through voices, facial expressions, postures, mannerisms, etc. You should be able to clearly follow the character changes.

Students may play characters of opposite genders, but are not allowed to change the gender of a character.

Students may “pop” from character to character, especially in humorous pieces. (“Popping” is a sudden change of posture, often involving foot and hand positions, to delineate different characters.)

IE Ballots

Save ballot Return to home page

Pos.	Competitor	Comments	Rank	Points
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	ZZ5 Laura Poughkeepsie	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	ZZ2 CJ Lowe	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	ZZ6 Zak Vilen	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Electronic comments

Age of Aquarius Swing - Saturday ADS Rd. 1 Sect. C
Room TEST 101, Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:30 AM

Speaker #1 -- ZZ1 Abbi Adkins

Save comments

Discard changes and return to ballot

Type your comments here

On Rank Sheet

- Call students up in order (unless someone is double entered and not present currently - fit in when they arrive)
- At end assign ranks and speaker points before saving.

On Ballot

Write detailed critiques for the student's performance.

Positive and constructive feedback please!

Judging Debate



NCFL Events

- Lincoln Douglas
- Public Forum

NON-NCFL Qualifying Events

- Extemp Debate
- World Schools Debate



What is your job?

The job of the judge is deciding who wins a round and why. In each round, you will be assigned 2 teams, who will be debating each other, and your task will be listening to what they have to say to decide which is the better argued side.

What are you looking for as a judge?

In a round, you will be looking for a few main things:

- Quality of the speaker (how they spoke their words, body language, eye contact, etc.)
- Content of information given (did their arguments make sense? were you convinced?)
- Did they build upon their ideas (did they make good responses? did they respond to everything they should of?)

Keeping Track of a Debate?

For every round, competitors and judges create notes called a “flow.” What that means is basically taking quick notes on the important ideas/evidence of what each side is saying. There are many different ways this can be done but an example of that looks like...



Judging Debate

- Other than giving a simple win or loss, you are also in charge of providing speaker points.
- Speaker points are given each round based upon a student's speaking ability in relation to the others in the round.
- Speaker points are on a 25-30 scale
 - Please do not score under 26 unless a speaker has done something inappropriate (at this point you should be discussing this with Tab Saff).

Debate Basics

A Reason for Decision (RFD) is vital. Please clearly explain on the ballot why you voted for the team who won the round.

Do not disclose the results. Oral critiques are permissible **ONLY AFTER** writing full ballot and submitting it.

Do not debate the debaters. Even if one team says something that you know to be wrong, it is up to their opponents to point this out. (You can note it on the ballot, but if the opponents fail to mention it, you shouldn't weigh it in your decision.)

Types of Debate

PF:

Public forum is a **partner debate event**. Students use evidence and statistics to form arguments. Each month there is a new resolution to argue for and against.

In PF, we use evidence, facts, and numbers to prove our points. We rely on truth and reason; arguments in this type of debate are always based on logic and real-life.

LD:

Lincoln-douglas is a theoretical, philosophical, and ethics focused debate style where two competitors examine questions of morality, justice and democracy through arguing for and against a predetermined resolution.

In LD, the arguments are based around a value. Values are essentially the overarching themes that your arguments must uphold. They are universally appealing ideas like, life, quality of life, justice, liberty, equality, societal welfare, safety, etc... Values are paired with what we call a value criterion, which is more specific to a case and arguments, it is how you weigh your value to see if it was achieved or not.

Public Forum Debate



Lincoln-Douglas Debate



Types of Debate cont...

Extemp Debate:

Extemporaneous Debate is a one-on-one format. During this limited prep debate event, students are only guaranteed thirty minutes to prepare for their round once the topic is released. There are instances when debaters may get more than thirty minutes, but never less. Debaters are either in favor of the resolution or against the resolution and will be assigned to a particular side by a computer

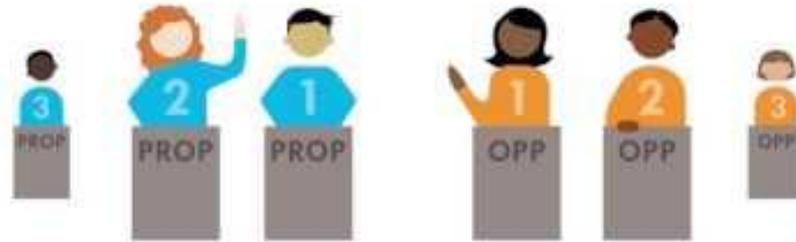
The use of evidence is permitted, but not a focal point due to the limited time available to prepare a case for the round.

World Schools Debate (WSD):

World Schools Debate is a three-on-three format. Some rounds are prepared and some are limited prep “impromptu” topics. Motions for Worlds Schools Debate are based upon the legislative model. Every motion then begins with the words, “This House”. The debaters are acting as a legislative chamber and debating about what the government would or should do. Motions are debated in a general sense, and are not about extreme or isolated examples. Additionally the debaters ought to imagine that the house is a worldwide governing body that governs all or most of the countries worldwide. Another way of looking at it is that the house represents what each country’s government and/or people would or should do.

World Schools Debate

Reply



Which Team Speaks First? Which is Pro/Aff or Con/Neg?

For PF, each round is started with a coin toss (unless a tournament decides to sidelock). If they win the coin toss, the student and their partner can choose to speak first or second in the round OR they may choose to speak pro or con.

If the student(s) lose the coin toss, their opponents get the same choice. If they choose whether to speak first or second, then the other team chooses their side (pro or con) or vice versa.

For LD, Extemp, WSD, the affirmative/Pro/Proposition will automatically go first.



Things to Keep In Mind

A debate round will typically last 45 minutes (except Extemp which will last 15 minutes not counting prep time).

Prep Time: Varies by event (PF - 3 minutes per team; LD - 4 minutes per side, Extemp - mandatory 1 minute prep times built in).

Questioning:

- PF - Crossfire - two-way questioning between 2 speakers who most recently spoke/ Grand Crossfire - two-way questioning between all 4 speakers.
- LD/Extemp Debate Cross Examination - one-way questioning each side gets after the other side speaks their constructive case.
- WSD - competitors may stand during speeches of their opponents side to ask questions, and their opponent may choose to either take the question or ignore (but may only ignore a limited number of times).

Debate Ballot

Enter debate results

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Round 1, Section A

Please enter the results of this debate from the ballot(s) using this page. If you wa

Sides

J1 Jennifer Reidelberger ▾ spoke in the **affirmative/pro.**

Judge A10 (No name specified)

Side	Code	Name	Points
AFF	J1	Jennifer Reidelberger	29
Neg	U3	Jessica Sierra	27

Winner on judge A10's ballot: AFF J1 Jennifer Reidelberger ▾

Ready to submit?

Please check the information you have entered on this page, and then click 'Subr

Comments for SpeechWire Tes AbCJ Abbi Adkins and CJ Lowe

Comments for SpeechWire Tes EaGa Earl Willis and Gail Holland

Reason for decision

Judging Congressional Debate



Congress

This is the only category where you will have a dozen or more students in a room together. They are creating a mock congress and have submitted legislation prior to the competition.

There will be a student presiding officer who will run the chamber and time speeches.

You will write a ballot for every speech given by every student. Speeches are only 3 minutes, but in between each, there is a questioning period.

Speeches are ranked from 6 to 1. 6 is excellent. Anything lower than a 3 was either offensive.

Congress Legislation

A BILL TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING FOR HIGH SPEED AND “HIGHER SPEED” RAIL IN THE UNITED STATES

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall provide \$50B/year for ten years in
3 grant funding to assist in completion of key High Speed and “Higher Speed” Rail
4 Lines in the United States.

5 a. Grants will be offered as dollar-for-dollar matching grants to qualifying
6 regional and state projects, matching the annual investment made by the
7 project agency in the previous year.

8 b. Funding will come from the Government Accounting Office’s list of
9 government duplication, fraud, and overpayments list, which totaled \$281B in
10 2021, alone, and has collected over \$500B in the last ten years.

11 **SECTION 2.** “Higher Speed” Rail refers to trains that travel at an average speed of at least
12 110mph.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation will oversee the administration of these grants.

14 **SECTION 4.** This bill will take effect on October 1, 2022.

15 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jane Doe

Congress Cont...

You are not evaluating students based on whether their legislation passes or fails, but rather on the quality of their speaking and their general interactions in the chamber.

Good speeches include:

Logic

Evidence

Refutation

Originality (this is especially important in later speeches on the same piece of legislation – don't allow students to simply rehash points that have already been made)

Congress Cont...

The students will set the docket (the order in which they will debate bills) and will elect a Presiding Officer. (Note: Any bill that has an author in the chamber MUST be debated in the afternoon session before any others if its has not be previously debated)

The Presiding Officer will run the chamber, selecting speakers and assuring that the chamber adheres to parliamentary procedure and league rules. The PO will also keep time on all speeches.

You will evaluate the PO based on how well s/he maintained order in the chamber, fairness in choosing speakers and questioners, knowledge of parliamentary procedure, and general decorum. Provide a speech score (out of 6) for each hour of debate for the PO.

You MAY and ARE ENCOURAGED to rank the PO among the top speakers in a round should you believe they ran an efficient chamber.

Congressional Debate



Congress Ballot

<input type="button" value="Save ballot"/>		<input type="button" value="Return to home page"/>	
Pos.	Competitor	Comments	Rank
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins	Edit comments	<input type="text" value=""/>
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5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson	Edit comments	<input type="text" value=""/>
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop	Edit comments	<input type="text" value=""/>
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce	Edit comments	<input type="text" value=""/>

For each speech click on the competitor who is speaking and type in and save comments for each new speech (they will show up as individual speeches). Award 3-6 points for each speech individually.

At the end of the session based on each competitors overall participation in the chamber (speeches, motions, questions - we're they significant in the life of the chamber and direction of the debate?) rank your TOP 8 competitors in the round.

Where to Go From Here!

NSDA Judge Adjudication

- A comprehensive basic judge training course **COMPLETELY FREE** provided by NSDA.
- Every judge is encouraged to take this course.
- Every judge at NFCFL Grand Finals



THANK YOU FOR
COMING!!!

QUESTIONS?