



WSDC 2017

Judging Debates in the World Schools Style

Roles of a Judge

1. Assign scores to speakers
2. Decide who wins the debate
3. Provide feedback to teams and on other judges

Roles of a Judge

1. Assign scores to speakers

2. Decide who wins the debate

3. Provide feedback to teams and on other judges

The Marking Standard

Total: 60 to 80 out of 100 (average = 70)

Content: 24 to 32 out of 40 (average = 28)

Style: 24 to 32 out of 40 (average = 28)

Strategy: 12 to 16 out of 20 (average = 14)

Half-points are allowed.

The scores for reply speeches are halved.

Content: The Essay-Like Element

Independently assess the strength of the material presented, regardless of whether (and how well) it's rebutted

Set aside your personal views and specialised knowledge ('average intelligent person')



Style: The Public Speaking Part

Style is:

How communicative a speaker is

How persuasive a speaker is

Style is not:

Accents or personal quirks

How stylish a speaker is, but how well he/she executes his/her chosen style

The \$64 million question: can you win a debate on style?

Strategy: The Rules of the Game

Understanding of Issues

Did the speaker deal with the most relevant questions in the debate? Did they prioritise the central issues and spend time on each accordingly?

Structure

Was it easy to follow the speech?

Timing

Did the speaker divide his time well between different segments of his speech?

Did the speaker keep to the time limit?

Judging POIs

Responses to POIs should be credited under the relevant categories

- POI Column (if speaker is off the floor)
- Content/Strategy (if speaker is on the floor)

Speakers must give and take 2 POIS.



Roles of a Judge

1. Assign scores to speakers

2. Decide who wins the debate

3. Provide feedback to teams and on other judges

Initial Impression vs. Total Scores

The team with the higher total score must win the debate. This should match your initial impression of who was better in the debate.

However, if these diverge, you must revise your scores to reflect your final impression of who won.

There are no ties in competitive debating.

Common Mistakes

Accelerating rebuttal mark

Over-prioritising later speeches

Over-emphasising Content, Style or Strategy

Compensating for motions viewed as unfair

Burdens

Propositions must prove that the motion is true as a general principle and/or in the majority of circumstances.

Oppositions must cast *more than a reasonable doubt* on the Proposition's case. When a motion is expressed as an absolute, the Opposition must show it is false in a significant minority of cases.

In other words, *both teams have an equal burden of proof* in World Schools style debating.

Definitional Challenges

Definitions must be *reasonable* and *obvious*. They must be *as general or as specific as the motion*.

A 1st Opposition speaker may challenge the Proposition's definition if he/she feels that it is unfair.

Regardless of who wins a definitional challenge, ***there are no automatic losses***. Judging must always be holistic.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

PROPOSITION:

define the debate

**offer arguments that are reasonable, fair,
realistic**

OPPOSITION

accept or reject the definitions

offer arguments that refute the motion

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

FIRST

explain what the debate means

set the stance

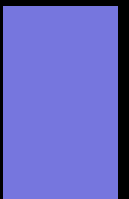
forward the crucial arguments

SECOND

respond to the first 'contact'

rebut with efficiency

further argumentation



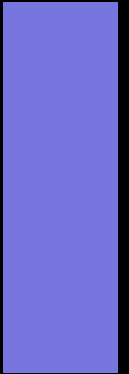
ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

THIRD

identify biggest questions and clashes

rebut the most crucial points

contribute original refutation



REPLY

summarize favorably

no new matter

final overview of the action

Roles of a Judge

1. Assign scores to speakers
2. Decide who wins the debate
- 3. Provide feedback to teams and on other judges**

Judicial Discussions

Aim to summarise main areas of feedback to teams

Not an opportunity to convince other judges to change their mind – ballots are already locked in

Keep it short and concise

Oral Adjudications

Avoid summarising the content of the debate

Explain main reasons for the verdict, to an audience which may be unfamiliar with competitive debating

Highlight areas of consensus and dissent

Refrain from singling out individual speakers

Informal Feedback

Be tactful and diplomatic but honest

Bear in mind that emotions may be running high

Avoid entering arguments with coaches or debaters – report such incidents to the Chief Adjudicator





Judging Debates in the World Schools Style Q and A