

Judging Policy Debate

This is a team event, consisting of 2 people. **The focus of the event is on Analysis, Argumentation, Refutation, Adaptation, and Organization.** Arguments are rooted heavily in the area of study referred to as political science. Competitors debate the same topic all year; however, the specifics of each round can vary substantially.

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR AS A JUDGE

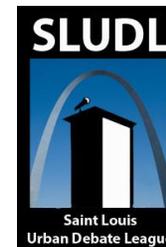
Key Issues the affirmative and negative may debate about

1. Is there a need for the affirmative?

- The affirmative should demonstrate a problem (something bad or a significant harm) with the present system
- The affirmative should demonstrate that the system has failed to properly fix the problem
- 2. The affirmative should advocate a solution that falls within the bounds of the debate topic. This proposal is referred to by the debaters as the "plan."
- 3. Does the affirmative lead to more good than bad? (Yes, vote Aff. No, vote Neg.)
- Does the affirmative demonstrate that their proposal (aka- plan) reduces the problem?
- The affirmative may provide other reasons or examples of how its plan does good things.
- The negative should provide reasons why the affirmative plan leads to "bad things"
 - The negative may show that the affirmative plan makes the problem worse
 - The negative may demonstrate unintended consequences (aka - disadvantages) of adopting the plan

This year's topic, the "Resolution" is:

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth's oceans.



THINGS TO LOOK FOR AS A JUDGE

- 1) Do the debaters present sound, logical arguments?
 - This does not mean you agree with his or her conclusions
 - This question has to do with how well they build and counter each other's arguments
 - Debaters are supposed to debate each other's arguments, not the judge's thoughts
- 2) Do the debaters use research, quotations, statistics, anecdotes, analogies, analysis, etc., to make their point?

ORDER OF SPEECHES:

| | |
|---------|-------|
| 1 AC | 4min |
| cross-x | 2 min |
| 1NC | 4 min |
| cross-x | 2 min |
| 2AC | 4 min |
| cross-x | 2 min |
| 2NC | 4 min |
| cross-x | 2 min |
| 1NR | 2 min |
| 1AR | 2 min |
| 2NR | 2 min |
| 2AR | 2 min |

***Each team also has 4 minutes prep time**

Other Thoughts for Judges

- You are in charge, but the competitors can help you out (before the round starts)
- You cannot converse with other individuals about "who should win," **nor should you tell the team you judged who won the round**
- The Judge is ALWAYS Right
- If you are confused, it probably means the competitors were not as clear as they should have been
- Provide *constructive criticism*, but also **give at least one positive comment for each team!**
- Double check your ballot before turning it in to the ballot table (see sample at table)
- The students are glad you are there to judge, regardless of your experience-level

THANK YOU!!