

How do I fill out my ballot? First, read the ballot completely. Some ballots are a bit outdated and we ask that you listen carefully in the Judge meeting if there have been any changes.

Filling out the ballot. The biggest part of judging.

Speech Ballots- You will receive a packet of ballots. Please write each contestant's code in the top left side of the ballot. As each contestant is speaking please note elements of speaking that are effective and ineffective. Never write "that sucked" or words of that nature, remember this is a learning activity and many of our students are young and new.

Here is an example- [Your introduction could be better developed to engage the audience. I loved your story on... Your example of ... didn't make sense to me. You had great eye contact and vocal inflection. Your gestures were a little weak in the beginning but then really emphasized your points later in your speech. Some of your information seemed a little out of order. You need more evidence to justify or explain ... Your characters were phenomenal.]

If you thought their performance was great BE Specific. If you think they have areas to work on- BE SPECIFIC. The coaches and students read their ballots carefully so anything you think they need to know to improve their performance should be placed on the ballot.

At the top you are going to give them a **RATING** score from 5-10 this is your overall evaluation of how they performed compared to the other students in that round. Please do not score against perfection. Be realistic. A score of 5-6 would indicate that the student is still developing and has significant flaws in their performance. A score of 7-8 would indicate that they are proficient. They have the basics down but need some polishing. And a score of 9-10 would indicate that they are advanced. They have a polished performance with nearly NO flaws. Their performance is engaging and meets the requirements of their event.

Then there is a **RANK**. You are going to list the students from best to worst on a 1-4 scale. You are essentially giving a first second third and fourth place in the round. Whomever you choose as the first place in the round would be in essence the student you would like to see in the final round. If there are more than four contestants in the round those students would also receive a RANK of 4.

I prefer to RATE the student while they are speaking and then give my final RANK after they have all finished. Upon completion of your ballots, please transfer the necessary information to the front of the ballot packet and return it to the Ballot table.

Debate Ballots

***Lincoln Douglas and public Forum debates take half the time as Policy debate. You will end up judging two debates per round. LD and PF debates are flighted so you will have one set of students come at the beginning of the round and then the other set of students will wait patiently until you are finished with the first set.

Please take roll when the round begins. Ask the debaters who will be first and second speaker in the team events and copy that onto the ballot. The affirmative team generally sits to your left and the negative team sits to your right.

Your Responsibilities:

- Bring a timing device, paper, and writing utensil. Formal dress is not required.
- Make sure that the teams have the correct code and are on the correct side. Time speeches.
- Allow debaters to time themselves. Cell phones and other devices are acceptable timers as long as they are not connected to the internet.
- Before the debate, tell the debaters your Paradigm which is what you want the debate to be like and what key thing or things that you judge off of.

Some of the most common paradigms for beginner judges are:

- **Communications.** Coms judges look for speaking skills and effective communication.
- **Stock Issues.** (Policy Only) Stock Issues judges prefer the debate to center around arguments that apply directly to the plan. (Topicality, Inherency, Harms, Solvency, Advantages, Disadvantages)
- **Tabula Rasa.** Tab Ras judges have no set preferences for type of arguments or debating style.

Also tell the debaters:

- How fast you'd like them to talk. (Slow, Medium, Fast, Very Fast.)
- How familiar and experienced you are with judging debate.
- Anything else about your preferences or specific judging style.
- Listen, take notes, and don't interrupt during the round.
- After the round, shake the debaters' hands.

Make individual comments as each speaker presents. Then make team comments and finally provide a clear reason for your decision. Here is an example-

<p>1st Aff- Slow down a bit. Nice job summarizing your evidence. Good cross ex questions. Your advantage 1 needs more evidence. Be sure to link your claims and impacts.</p>	<p>1st Neg Good eye contact. Make sure to give me some sign posts along the way so I know when you are transitioning to a new argument. Very clear and articulate.</p>
<p>Aff Team Comments You work well together. Make sure you both understand the warrants of your arguments. You were very respectful.</p>	<p>Neg Comments Stay organized and confident. Don't let them fluster you in cross ex. Current evidence is generally better. Work on refutation.</p>

Reason For decision

I felt the ___ team persuaded better. The argument on ___ was effective and the other team did not refute it well. While the ___ team had strong evidence, the ___ team's analysis of the argument was stronger. All were great speakers. Awesome debate.

*Once you have completed the comments section you need to allocate DEBATE/SPEAKER points. The highest points should go to the side you chose as the winner.

What if someone violates a rule? As a judge please notify the TAB Room in writing if you believe there is a significant rule violation. Be specific in what you observed and give details on how you feel a rule was violated. Judges do not have the authority to disqualify a student for any reason. For a copy of the Rules please see the Idaho Debate Code