

LINCOLN/DOUGLAS JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

1. WHAT IS LINCOLN/DOUGLAS DEBATE?

Lincoln/Douglas debate is "one on one" argumentation in which the debaters attempt to convince the judge of the acceptability of their side of a proposition of value.

2. DEBATING A PROPOSITION OF VALUE

Lincoln/Douglas debaters do NOT advocate establishing any new policy or advocate changes in existing policy.

3. FORMAT

Each speaker in the debate has an equal amount of time to persuade the judge.

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination by Negative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination by Affirmative	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

Each speaker is allowed three minutes of preparation time during the debate.

4. DUTIES OF THE SPEAKERS

- A. The Affirmative speaker, in the first affirmative speech, is required to present a position supporting the resolution.
- B. In the first Negative speech, the speaker may:
 1. present an opposing position on the resolution.
 - OR
 2. offer a straight refutation of the affirmative position.
 - OR
 3. offer a combination of both.
- C. BOTH SPEAKERS BEAR THE BURDEN OF CLASH IN REBUTTAL SPEECHES; that is, each must speak to his opponent's position in the debate.

5. JUDGING CRITERIA

- A. Only debaters participating in the debate may take written notes or "flow sheets" during the round. Of course, judges may also take notes.
- B. Since neither side can prove a value, the decision should go to the debater who best upholds his/her side of the resolution through effective analysis, evidence and reasoning, refutation, and delivery.
- C. EVIDENCE: Value debating is more subjective (feelings) than policy debate which is more objective (factual). That does not mean the Lincoln/Douglas debater does not have to utilize evidence in presenting arguments. In Lincoln/Douglas debate, logic and persuasion are stressed. As in all debate, evidence (quoted material from a nationally published source) should be used in supporting arguments.
- D. Only those arguments and/or issues raised in constructive speeches may be discussed in rebuttals. New evidence and reasoning may be used in rebuttals to support those arguments and/or issues.
- E. MAKING A DECISION: Since neither side can absolutely prove a value position, the decision by offering effective analysis, evidence and reasoning, refutation, and delivery. NEVER SHOULD A DECISION BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE JUDGE'S PERSONAL CONVICTIONS REGARDING THE TOPIC. REMEMBER, THE DEBATERS HAVE NO CHOICE ABOUT WHICH SIDE OF THE RESOLUTION THEY MUST UPHOLD. THE BALLOT ASKS: "WHO DID THE BETTER JOB OF DEBATING."