

General Instructions to Judges

Thank you for volunteering to judge. Your service enables us to run these forensics tournaments. We hope that these directions will help relieve some of your concerns.

Before the Tournament

1. Your son or daughter will sign you up with the school's coach. Please realize that you need to be available for the entirety of the tournament. We cannot tell you before the tournament which rounds you will be judging, as these assignments are based on the results of previous rounds. If you leave early, we cannot guarantee that your school will be able to keep all of its students in the competition.
2. Please inform your school's coach of any conflicts you may have. Do you have a niece or a nephew who competes for another school? Are you a teacher in another school? It is easier to block you from judging a certain round than to make the change at the tournament.
3. Please realize that you may not be may not be judging the event in which your son or daughter is competing. Your school may need to switch you to a different event to fill a quota.
4. What should you bring with you?
 - A) A pen and paper. If you are judging debate, please be sure you bring a ballpoint pen, as the ballot is a triplicate form.
 - B) A timer: You will need to time the students' speeches. Not every classroom has a clock with a second hand. You can use a watch, a kitchen timer, or the stopwatch on your phone.
 - C) Reading material: All tournaments have down time while the Tab Room compiles the results and schedules the next round.

The Morning of the Tournament

1. Before the tournament begins, each school registers with the Tab Room. It is not necessary that you register with the Tab Room personally. Rather, please see your school's coach and then the coach that you are here. The coach will give you initial information about the tournament.
2. Please stay in the Judge's Lounge before the tournament begins. We will make announcements there.
3. Once all the schools have arrived, we will hold a short course on how to judge. Please listen for the announcement. We give one instruction for all speech events. We give

different instructions for each Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum debates and for Congress. If you are judging at a debate tournament, please be sure you know the event you will be judging so that you can go to the correct instructions.

During the Tournament

1. After judges' instructions, we will publish schedules (the students call them schematics). Please check the schematics and pick up your ballot for Round 1. Please do not pick up more than your first round ballots. At many tournaments, we use the ballots to check that a judge has gone to the next round.

2. If you are not judging during a certain round, please remain in the Judge's Lounge in case we need to get in contact with you. Please do NOT watch rounds. You may be judging these competitors later, and we want you to come into a round clean. We may also need to switch a judge and may need to find you quickly.

3. Please proceed as quickly as possible to your judging assignment. Judge the round.

4. Please sit at the back of the room, not the teacher's desk. The contestants will need the area in the front of the room to perform.

5 Please do NOT say anything to the contestants that indicate what you think of their performance. Please put all comments on the forms you are given. The competitors will receive these forms after the tournament.

6 Please do NOT ask competitors what school they attend. It makes them nervous.

7 After the round, please bring your ballot to the Tab Room as quickly as possible.

8 Most tournaments have 4 rounds. In speech, students compete in three rounds one after another. After lunch, the top students compete in a final round. In debate, students compete in two rounds one after another. The third and fourth rounds are based in the results of previous rounds, so there will be sometime before these schedules are published. If you delay your ballot, you delay the entire tournament.

9 If you have any problems, please check with the Tab Room. The Tab Room personnel will be happy to help you.