

**NEWARK CFL - JUDGING DEBATE - MARCH 2026**

Thank you for judging debate at today's tournament. In order to facilitate an efficient tournament and provide our students with the greatest variety of judges, all debate judges will be entered into both divisions of both the Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum pools. Judges should be prepared to adjudicate either event during the day. High School student judges are not permitted to judge varsity rounds and should ensure the tab room has been informed of this prior to the tournament.

Both events are side-constrained in the CFL. There is **NO COIN FLIP** for sides (unless necessary in an elimination round and **indicated** on the judge's ballot).

**TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE**

4 Preliminary Rounds, 2 Elimination Rounds (QF, SF). Final two debaters qualify for nationals/no final round.

<b>Lincoln-Douglas Debate (1 vs. 1)</b>	<b>Public Forum Debate (2 vs. 2)</b>
<b>Resolved: The United States military ought to abide by the principle of non-intervention.</b>	<b>Resolved: The United States federal government should require technology companies to provide lawful access to encrypted communications.</b>
<a href="#"><b>NSDA LD Topic Analysis</b></a>	<a href="#"><b>NSDA PF Topic Analysis</b></a>
<p>Order and time limits of the debate: Judges serve as the official timekeeper even if students keep their own time.</p> <p>First Affirmative Constructive: 6 minutes</p> <p>Aff Cross-Examination by Neg: 3 minutes</p> <p>First Negative Constructive: 7 minutes</p> <p>Neg Cross-Examination by Aff: 3 minutes</p> <p>First Affirmative Rebuttal: 4 minutes</p> <p>First Negative Rebuttal: 6 minutes</p> <p>Second Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 minutes</p> <p>Prep Time: 4 minutes per debater. Prep time may be used/run at each debater's discretion.</p>	<p>Order and time limits of the debate: Judges serve as the official timekeeper even if students keep their own time.</p> <p>First Pro Constructive: 4 minutes First Con Constructive: 4 minutes Crossfire: 3 minutes (Note: the Con asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).</p> <p>Second Pro: 4 minutes Second Con: 4 minutes Crossfire: 3 minutes (Note: the Pro asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).</p> <p>First Pro Summary: <b>3 minutes</b> First Con Summary: <b>3 minutes</b></p> <p>Grand Crossfire: 3 minutes (Note: one member of the Pro team asks the first question; thereafter, any debater may ask questions).</p> <p>Second Pro Final Focus: 2 minutes Second Con Final Focus: 2 minutes</p> <p>Prep Time: <b>3 minutes</b> per team. Prep time may be used/run at each team's discretion. — <b>NEW</b></p>

**Speaker Points (½ points are allowed. Ties are allowed. Low Point Wins are NOT allowed in CFL rules)**

25.....25.5.....26.....26.5.....27.....27.5.....28.....28.5.....29.....29.5.....30  
 ....Offensive.....Needs Improvement.....Fair.....Average.....Good.....Very Good... .Excellent.....AMAZING!!....

**CFL BY-LAWS**

The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, and in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room.... In the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room, connectivity is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. In Policy Debate, LincolnDouglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, connectivity to any persons other than the competitors or judges in the round is not allowed. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition. No

guarantee of power or of internet connectivity should be presumed. Students wishing to use digital devices must be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital devices fail.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate	Public Forum Debate
<p>1) In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the resolution is a proposition of value, not policy. Debaters are to develop argumentation on the resolution in its entirety, based on conflicting underlying principles and values to support their positions. To that end, they are not responsible for practical applications. No plan or counterplan shall be offered by either debater.</p> <p>2) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Which debater was more persuasive?</li> <li>B. Did the debater support his or her position appropriately, using logical argumentation throughout and evidence when necessary?</li> <li>C. Which debater communicated more effectively? Speed, word choice, and delivery all count.</li> </ul> <p>3) Since this is a debate, clash is necessary. It may be direct clash or clash by opposing principles. Thus, the debate does not have to match point for point.</p> <p>4) Good judges make decisions only on what was debated by the contestants. If the judges consider an argument to be flawed, but the opponent does not refute it, the original argument must stand. If, however, there is a clash, then the judges decide which argument is more persuasive.</p> <p>5) Judges may not discuss the progress of the debate either with each other or with the debaters.</p> <p>6) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values of the judges should not influence the decision.</p> <p>7) Any rulings concerning this event are to be made by the Tab Room personnel.</p>	<p>1) Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Each team shall be comprised of two debaters, each representing the same member school. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a "lay" judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.</p> <p>2) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Which team is more persuasive?</li> <li>B. Did the debaters back up their assertions with logical thinking and evidence when needed?</li> <li>C. Were the debaters fair in their interpretation of the resolution and one another's statements?</li> <li>D. Were the arguments intelligent? Did the debaters try to use many weak arguments instead of a few solid ones?</li> <li>E. Did the debaters speak in such a way that their ideas were understandable?</li> <li>F. Were the debaters courteous and professional?</li> </ul> <p>3) Judges may not discuss the debate either with each other or with the debaters.</p> <p>4) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values should not influence the decision.</p> <p>5) Any rulings concerning this event are to be made by the Tab Room personnel.</p>

**Great judges.....**

- 1. Actively listen and take notes (flow arguments) during the round.**
- 2. Avoid texting or checking their news feeds while students are speaking.**
- 3. Do not intervene in the debate with their own personal viewpoints.**
- 4. Not only comment on delivery but on the substance of the arguments/evidence.**
- 5. Provide specific commentary and a detailed 'reason for decision.'**
- 6. Include supportive suggestions on how each debater can improve.**
- 7. There are no disclosures or low-point-wins at the Newark CFL.**
- 8. Write their ballots clearly and completely, but quickly to keep the tournament running on-time.**
- 9. Do not sit at teachers' desks.**