

THANK YOU FOR JUDGING DEBATE at Wichita Collegiate School

Before You Get Started:

1. Please report to your assigned room 5 minutes prior to the round. You are also encouraged to start the debate as soon as possible.
2. You are encouraged to write several positive and constructive comments for each team. Students benefit from your feedback. Teach them how to debate better at their next tournament. They'll thank you! **Please do not make comments about students' attire or appearance on the ballot.**
3. **Please submit your ballot on Tabroom.com.**
4. Please enjoy a meal, snack, or drink in our hospitality room. We have hospitality rooms in the Upper School faculty lounge for JV and Novice Judges, and the Middle School faculty lounge for Varsity judges. We do ask, however, that you visit the hospitality room **after** you have received your room assignment for the next round (if you are judging).

The Structure of a Debate Round

1 st Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes	2 nd Negative Constructive.....8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examination3 minutes	2 nd Aff CX of 2NC 3 mins - 1 st Negative Rebuttal . 5 minutes
1 st Negative Constructive 8 minutes	1 st Affirmative Rebuttal5 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examination . . 3 minutes	2 nd Negative Rebuttal5 minutes
2 nd Affirmative Constructive8 minutes	2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal5 minutes
1 st Negative Cross-Examination3 minutes	<i>* please note that each team has a total of 8 minutes of preparation time, to be used at each team's discretion throughout the round. Prep time is only deducted from the team waiting to speak.</i>

The Topic of a Debate Round

This year's national high school debate topic is Resolved: "The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income."

In today's debate round, the affirmative team will tell you that the federal government needs to make substantial increases to fiscal redistribution through changes to social security, a federal jobs guarantee or a universal basic income, and they will offer a plan for how the federal government should do so. The negative team will present arguments to persuade you the either the federal government should not change its fiscal redistribution policy,, that the affirmative plan won't work to solve the problem, that there are substantial disadvantages to the plan, that an alternative strategy would be preferable, that there is a philosophical issue underlying the affirmative case or the resolution that must be resolved, or a combination of these arguments (and perhaps several more).

How to Judge a Debate Round

1. **The Substance of a Debate:** students will propose and defend ideas intended to affirm or negate the ideas of the resolution, or the ideas of the other team. There are some specific terms and ideas that may be discussed in your debate round:

Inherency: a debate about whether a problem exists in the current system.

Harms: a debate about the degree of harm caused by the problem(s) in the current system.

Solvency: a debate about whether the affirmative plan solves the problems it claims exist

Disadvantages: a debate about the potential dangers of adopting the affirmative plan

Topicality: a debate about whether the affirmative plan fits within the wording of the topic.

Advantages: the benefits of the affirmative plan

Burden of Proof: the affirmative responsibility to indict or prove guilt of the current system

Burden of Clash: the negative responsibility to respond to the indictments made by the affirmative team.

Case: the affirmative team's claim that a problem exists in the current system

Flow: the note-taking system devised by debaters and adopted by some judges.

Plan: the affirmative team's solution to the problem

Counterplan: an alternative proposal which the negative team may or may not choose to present.

Status Quo: the present system

Kritik: Questioning the underlying assumptions of the other teams arguments from a philosophical perspective

2. **The Style of a Debate:** regardless of the topic, all speakers should demonstrate effective speaking and presentation skills. These skills include:

Voice: does the student speak in a manner and pace that captures and maintains your attention?

Gestures: do the student's movements add or detract from the persuasiveness?

Body Posture: does the student stand straight with his or her weight distributed equally?

Word Choice: do the words chosen by the student enhance your understanding?

Judges should not base decisions or comment on student dress or attire.

Considerations When Judging:

- A. The teams should be judged on the merits of arguments and evidence presented. Do not let personal opinions about the topic influence your decision.
- B. The following factors should be considered in rendering the decision:
 1. Organization -- Were the arguments presented in logical order? Did the speaker make clear where arguments applied to opponent's case?
 2. Delivery -- Were the arguments presented in a manner which could be heard and understood? Was the rate too slow or too fast? Was the effectiveness of the arguments reduced because of the delivery?
 3. Refutation -- Did the speaker directly attack the arguments and evidence?
 4. Evidence -- Did the speaker present evidence to support his or her arguments? Did the speaker's evidence prove what it was claimed it would prove? Did the speaker introduce and explain the evidence?
 5. Analysis and Reasoning -- Was the speaker able to find logical flaws in the opponents' arguments and evidence?
 6. Cross-examination -- Did the questioner use the time to expose weaknesses in arguments and evidence? Did the speaker use the time to clarify obscure points in the case? Were the questions answered directly? Were answers utilized during the speeches? Note on cross-examination: The purpose of cross-examination is to expose weaknesses in the evidence and arguments presented by the opposing team; it is not intended for the purpose of attacking personality or for making speeches.
 7. **Point Ranks: No points under 20, and only for offensive behavior should you go that low. No ties are allowed. 30 should be reserved for exceptional speakers.**