

Debate Rubric

Debate Rubric from National Speech & Debate Association

| Points → | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | Mediocre | Good | Excellent | Superior |
| Content: Organization, Evidence & Language | The speech lacked a clear thesis and organizational structure. Claims are only asserted with generalizations and no real evidence. Language use is unclear or ineffective. | While the speaker's purpose is present, the speech lacks logical organization and/or developed ideas. Analysis of evidence, if present, fails to connect its relevance to the speaker's claims. Use of language is weak. | While a clear purpose is apparent, organization may be somewhat loose (weak introduction/conclusion; no transitions between points). Diction represents a grasp of language. Much evidence is presented, but not in a persuasive or effective manner; or the speaker relies on <i>one</i> piece of evidence, but does so effectively. | Content is clearly and logically organized, and characterized by depth of thought and development of ideas, supported by a variety of credible quantitative (statistical) and qualitative (testimony) evidence analyzed effectively to draw conclusions. Compelling language, a poignant introduction and conclusion and lucid transitions clearly establish the speaker's purpose and frame the perspective of the issue's significance. |
| Argument & Refutation | The speaker offers mostly unwarranted assertions, which often simply repeat/rehash previous arguments. | The speaker fails to <i>either</i> introduce new arguments (simply repeating previous arguments) <i>or</i> the speaker fails to refute previous opposing arguments; in other words, no real <i>clash</i> is present. | New ideas and response to previous arguments are offered, but in an unbalanced manner (too much refutation or too many new arguments). Questions are answered adequately. | The speaker contributes to the spontaneity of debate, effectively synthesizing response and refutation of previous ideas with new arguments. If the speaker fields questions, he/she responds with confidence and clarity. |
| Delivery | Little eye contact, gestures and/or movement are present. Vocal presentation is inarticulate due to soft volume or lack of enunciation. | Presentation is satisfactory, yet unimpressively read (perhaps monotonously) from prepared notes, with errors in pronunciation and/or minimal eye contact. Awkward gestures/movement may be distracting. | The presentation is strong, but contains a few mistakes, including problems with pronunciation and enunciation. The speech may be partially read with satisfactory fluency. Physical presence may be awkward at times. | The speaker's vocal control and physical poise are polished, deliberate, crisp and confident. Delivery should be extemporaneous, with few errors in pronunciation. Eye contact is effective and consistent. |

Comments:

Questioning Rubric

| | 0 – No Attempt | 1 – Satisfactory | 2 – Superior |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Questions | When given the opportunity, no questions were asked. OR The question asked was irrelevant to the topic. | Questions asked were clear and prompted the debaters to provide clarification on their position but did not require them to defend their argument. | Questions asked were clear and prompted the debaters to think critically about their argument and provide additional rationales when answering. |

Total Score: _____/150