

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

EVENT RULES & ORDER OF DEBATE

An argumentative resolution (*debatable topic*) will be distributed to SCSTA Coaches approximately two weeks prior to the competition. Debaters must be prepared to argue **BOTH** the affirmative (*in support of*) and negative (*against*) side of the resolution. **One minute prior to debate, speakers will randomly select which side of the debate they will argue (Affirmative or Negative)**. Speakers are encouraged to prepare, research, and practice both sides of the argument. Lincoln-Douglas Debate follows the **Order of Debate**. The debate will be judged on knowledge/originality, organization, content, delivery, and overall effectiveness (*including who won*).

TOTAL TIME: 15 minutes per debate

Resolution is the topic of the debate. Resolution must be argumentative with a variety of logical options for either side of the argument. **Students must come prepared to speak on both the affirmative AND the negative side of the argument.** *Sample resolution: National security should be valued above freedom of the press.*

1. **Affirmative Speaker's Opening Argument:** 3 minutes maximum. Affirmative Speaker presents his/her prepared persuasive speech **in support of** the resolution. (30 seconds preparation)
2. **Negative Speaker Cross Examines Affirmative Speaker:** 60 seconds maximum **Q & A**. Negative Speaker challenges the Affirmative Speaker's opening argument. (30 seconds preparation)
3. **Negative Speaker's Opening Argument:** 3 minutes maximum. Negative Speaker presents his/her argument **against the resolution AND refutes Affirmative Speaker's** opening argument. (30 seconds preparation)
4. **Affirmative Speaker Cross Examines Negative Speaker:** 60 seconds maximum **Q & A**. Affirmative Speaker challenges the Negative Speaker's opening argument. (30 seconds preparation)
5. **1st Rebuttal by Affirmative Speaker:** 60 seconds maximum. to address opponent's response to questions. (30 seconds preparation)
 - Summarizes the major objections to the Negative Speaker's argument.
 - Calls attention to the weaknesses in the negative case (*fallacies, unproved claims, etc.*).
6. **Rebuttal by Negative Speaker:** 90 seconds maximum to offer a final response against the Affirmative Speaker's argument. (30 seconds preparation)
 - Summarizes the major objections to the Affirmative Speaker's argument.
 - Re-establishes the Negative Speaker's argument against the resolution.
 - Calls attention to the weaknesses in the affirmative case (*fallacies, unproved claims, etc.*).
 - Asks for acceptance of the negative position by the audience/judge.
7. **Final Rebuttal by Affirmative Speaker:** 60 seconds maximum to offer a final response to the Negative Speaker's argument and rebuttal.
 - Re-establishes the Affirmative Speaker's argument in support of the resolution.
 - Asks for acceptance of the affirmative position by the audience/judge

Approximate total time for debate: **15 minutes**

SCSTA COLLEGE FESTIVAL COMPETITION Evaluation Form

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

Performer(s) _____

Preliminary Round Final Round

School _____

Time: _____ Minutes (*Limit 15 Minutes*)

Criteria	Superior	Advanced	Proficient	Basic Level	Emerging
	5 Points	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Knowledge / Originality	Skillfully addresses opposing arguments with strong rebuttals. Effectively counters opponents' points.	Capable of addressing opposing arguments with some strong rebuttals. Mostly effective in countering opponents' points.	Attempts to address opposing arguments with weak rebuttals. Limited effectiveness in countering opponents' points.	Struggles to address opposing arguments. Weak or no rebuttals. Ineffective in countering opponents' points.	Unable to address opposing arguments. No rebuttals.
Organization	Extremely well-structured and organized. Transitions between points are seamless.	Well-organized with logical progression. Transitions between points are effective.	Generally organized with some minor issues in structure. Transitions are somewhat effective.	Organization is unclear at times. Transitions are weak.	Poor organization and structure. Transitions are disjointed.
Content	Exceptional clarity, depth, and relevance of arguments. Presents compelling evidence. Consistently strong counter-arguments.	Clear and relevant arguments. Presents adequate evidence. Mostly strong counter-arguments.	Arguments are somewhat clear and relevant. Some evidence provided. Counter-arguments are weak.	Arguments lack clarity and depth. Limited or weak evidence. Weak counter arguments.	Arguments are unclear and irrelevant. Lack of evidence and counter-arguments.
Delivery	Exceptional poise, confidence, and engagement. Effective use of tone and gestures.	Confident delivery with good engagement. Appropriate use of tone and gestures.	Delivery is generally steady with some fluctuations. Adequate use of tone and gestures.	Delivery lacks confidence. Limited use of tone and gestures.	Extremely nervous delivery. Little to no use of tone and gestures.
Overall Effectiveness	Speaker explored the topic extremely sufficiently and uniquely. They presented themselves excellently in professional attire and with poise. They established an excellent rapport with the audience.	Speaker explored the topic very sufficiently and uniquely. They presented themselves very well in professional attire and with poise. They established a great rapport with the audience.	Speaker explored the topic sufficiently and uniquely. They presented themselves well in professional attire and with poise. They established a rapport with the audience.	Speaker struggled to explore the topic sufficiently and uniquely. They struggle to present themselves in professional attire and with poise. They established some rapport with the audience.	Speaker did not explore the topic sufficiently and uniquely. They presented themselves well in professional attire and with poise. They established a rapport with the audience.

_____ **TOTAL POINTS (25 possible)**
 Superior (21-25)
 Excellent (16-20)
 Good (11-15)
 Fair (0-10)

Judges Comments:

Judges Affiliation _____

Judges Signature: _____

FOR TALLY ROOM ONLY

_____ Deductions (-2 for over/undertime in preliminary round; Disqualified in Finals)

_____ ADJUSTED TOTAL POINTS