

DEBATE JUDGING CRITERIA: Some things to watch for. (Not an exhaustive list!)

PREPARATION

Content

Definitions
Facts, Quotations, Statistics
Examples, Anecdotes, Analogies
Documentation with Authorities
Utilization of Time Available
General Knowledge of Subject

Adequacy and Accuracy
Aptness and Appeal
Relevance and Significance
Originality
Visual Aids
Depth of Understanding of Issues

Organization

Purpose (central theme)
Introduction
Development
Sequence
Transitions
Conclusion
Summarization

Logic

Analysis (penetrating or superficial?)
Sound Reasoning?
Internal Consistency?
Co-ordination with Colleagues?
Recognition of Fallacies?
Defence of own Arguments?
Anticipation of Opponents'?

PRESENTATION

Voice

Rate
Pitch
Quality
Strength
Modulation

Articulation

Enunciation
Expression
Inflexion
Control (especially pauses)
Local dialect or distracting accent?

Department

Sharp or slovenly?
Natural or contrived?
Purposeful or random?
Dramatic or monotonous?
Integrated or exaggerated?

Bodily Action

Stance
Posture
Gestures
Eye Contact
Facial Expression

Language

English
Grammar
Vocabulary

Clarity
Fluency
Effectiveness

Projection of Personality

Warm or callous?
Natural or affected?
Confident or insecure? (Poise)
Arrogant or apologetic?
Solicitous or antagonistic?

Intelligent or dull?
Collected or flustered?
Sincere or manipulative?
Mature or irresponsible?
Concerned or indifferent?

Credibility - Convincing? Plausible, possible, or preposterous?

Audience Adaptation

Attention aroused?

Knowledge considered?

Interest maintained?
Confidence secured?
Observation of audience?

Beliefs considered?
Charismatic control?
Reaction to audience?

DEBATING SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Familiarity with the Rules:
Effective Use of them
Few infractions of them

Powers of Observation:
Attentive Listener
Accurate Note-taker

Propaganda and Persuasive Powers:
Humour and Irony
Emotional Appeals

In Academic Debating

Heckling:
Infrequent but effective
Ability to handle hecklers

In Cross-Examination Debating

Asking Questions:
Short, well-worded questions
Organized series of questions
No speech-making or arguing
Valuable admissions elicited
Courtesy, respect for witness
Control of time and witness
Fair but telling questions

In Parliamentary Debating

Heckling:
Infrequent but effective
Ability to handle hecklers

PENALTIES

Improper Role-Playing
Inappropriate Conduct
Objectionable Language
Personal Attack on Other Debater
Falsified Evidence
Fabricated Evidence
Failure to Substantiate
New Arguments in Rebuttal

Rebuttal of Opponent' Arguments:
Identification of Issues
Effective adaptation:
Intelligent concessions
Turning points to own use
Telling Attacks
Adequate Defence of own arguments

Rhetoric

Propaganda Devices

Rhetorical Questions

Effective Complaints of Violations

Answering Questions:
Direct, honest answers
Skilful responses
No questions in reply
Reasonable qualifications
Co-operative and pleasant
No stalling or time wasting
Sound understanding of case

Intelligent use of Points

Irrelevance
Unnecessary Repetition
Reading of Speech
Memorization of Speech
Unfair Tactics
Poor Teamwork
Prompting Colleague
Poor Attitude