

KERN REGION FORENSICS
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

2008 September/:October Resolution:

Resolved: It is morally permissible to kill one innocent person to save the lives of more innocent people.

1. What is Lincoln-Douglas debate?

Lincoln-Douglas debate is “one on one” argumentation in which the debaters attempt to convince the judge of the acceptability of their side of a value proposition.

2. Debating a value proposition.

Lincoln-Douglas debaters DO NOT advocate establishing any new policy or advocate changes in existing policy.

3. Format of Lincoln-Douglas debate.

Each speaker in the debate has an equal amount of time to persuade the judge.

Affirmative Constructive		6 minutes
Cross-examination	3	
Negative constructive	7	
Cross-examination	3	
First Affirmative Rebuttal	4	
Negative Rebuttal	6	
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	3	

Each debater is allowed three (3) minutes of prep time to use before their speeches.

4. Duties of the speakers.

A. The Affirmative speaker, the First Affirmative speech, is required to present a proposition supporting the resolution.

B. In the First Negative speech, the speaker may:

(1.) Present an opposing position on the resolution

OR

(2.) Offer a straight refutation of the Affirmative position.

OR

(3.) Offer a combination of both.

C. Both speakers bear the burden of clash in rebuttal speeches; that is, each must speak to his/her opponent’s position in the debate.

5. Judging Criteria

- A. Only debaters participating in the debate may take written notes or “flow sheets” during the round. Judges are strongly encouraged to take notes!
- B. Since no one can prove a value, the decision should go to the debater who best upholds his/her side of the resolution through effective analysis, evidence and reasoning, refutation, and delivery.
- C. In Lincoln-Douglas debate, logic and persuasion are stressed. As in all debates, evidence (quoted material from a nationally published source) should be used in supporting arguments. Students must provide a complete citation (including author’s name, publication, full date, and page number) for each piece of evidence, the first time the source is used.
- D. A debater may request evidence used by their opponent. This evidence must be returned before the next speech.
- E. Only those arguments and/or issues raised in constructive speeches may be discussed in rebuttals. New evidence and reasoning may be used in rebuttals to support previous arguments and issues.
- F. NEVER SHOULD A DECISION BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE JUDGE’S PERSONAL CONVICTIONS REGARDING THE TOPIC. REMEMBER THAT THE DEBATERS HAVE NO CHOICE ABOUT WHICH SIDE OF THE RESOLUTION THEY MUST UPHOLD. THE BALLOT ASKS, “WHO DID THE BETTER DEBATING?”

SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE JUDGING OF
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

The current resolution is Resolved: It is morally permissible to kill one innocent person to save the lives of more innocent people.

1. Remember: the rules and ballot for Lincoln-Douglas debate are NOT the same as those for Team Debate. The specific rules for Lincoln-Douglas debates are on the reverse side of this sheet. You should read them carefully while you are waiting to receive your ballot. If you have questions, please ask them before you leave the judging room and/or when you return from the round. DO NOT QUESTION THE STUDENTS ABOUT THE RULES!

2. Remember: rules for High School debate are often different from college debate or other contests. Judge according to the High School debate rules.
3. Please note: you will (unless otherwise instructed) be judging two Lincoln-Douglas debates during one round. While the two speakers in the first debate are speaking, the speakers for the second debate are to remain outside the room. When you are ready to begin the second debate, the speakers from the first debate should leave the room. Your judging obligation is to listen to both debates.
4. Please give full and undivided attention to each speaker.
5. Please silence all pagers and cell phones.
6. No oral critiques are to be issued to the students because of the time critiques consume. (Please do not talk to the students about their debate if you see them after the round. If any students ask you for comments, please tell them that oral comments are against the rules.)
7. Judges may NOT under any circumstances confer before marking and returning the ballots. Please make your decision independently.
8. Judges shall NOT be allowed to request any evidence from the debaters except when evidence is challenged as invalid by the opposing debater in the round.
9. Judges are strongly encouraged to take notes.