

KERN REGION FORENSICS  
TEAM DEBATE JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

**2008-2009 Policy Debate Topic:**

*Resolved:* The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.

1. Teams are given code numbers in order to facilitate impartiality. Judges are not to ask students about their school affiliation. If you are assigned a debate and find you know one of the contestants, please take another ballot.
2. Teams are assigned to debate either Affirmative or Negative. Please judge only on the quality of the debating and eliminate all personal biases.
  - A. The affirmative must support the debate resolution adopted by the CHSSA
  - B. The negative may argue against the affirmative proposal for the adoption of the resolution, defend the present system or present their own policy action (counter-plan).
3. Speeches in the debate are limited by time and follow a strict order. Any material offered in the overtime should be disregarded.

The speaking times for team debate are as follows:

First affirmative constructive	8	minutes
Cross examination	3	
First negative	8	
Cross examination	3	
Second affirmative	8	
Cross examination	3	
Second negative	8	
Cross examination	3	
First negative rebuttal	5	
First affirmative rebuttal	5	
Second negative rebuttal	5	
Second affirmative rebuttal	5	

Each team also gets 8 min. of prep time to use before their speeches.

4. **NO NEW ARGUMENTS** may be raised in the rebuttal speeches **except in the First Affirmative Rebuttal** when responses to the Second Negative Constructive arguments are permitted. However, new analysis or evidence supporting previous arguments in the constructive speeches is encouraged.

5. **False or manufactured evidence is grounds for a loss** being given to the offending team. Should a challenge be raised, at the end of the round all judges should return to the judges' room for further direction. To be valid in the debate, all evidence must contain the author's name and the year produced. The first time a source is used, the debater must indicate the publication, the complete date, and the page number.
6. **Judges are not allowed to request or accept any evidence from debaters**, except when the evidence is challenged as invalid by the opposing team during the debate. Debaters are not allowed to offer evidence to the judge. Debaters may request evidence from their opponent. This evidence must be returned before the next speech.
7. YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to take notes during the debate round. The students deserve an informed and attentive judge.
8. **Each team is granted eight (8) minutes of preparation time** which they may use as they please. (A team has 8 minutes, not each debater.) If there are no timers, please call out the amount of unused prep time for each team in one-minute intervals. The cross-examination period cannot be waived to gain more time for preparation.
9. **Students may not orally prompt their partner.** Oral communication between partners while one partner is speaking, asking cross-examination questions, or being cross-examined is grounds for a loss. Students may talk to their partner during preparation time or during their opponent's speech.
10. THE WIN OR LOSS DECISION—There are many different judging models for debate. Two of the most common are **Stock Issues** and **Policy Maker**.
  - A. Stock issues Judging Criterion: This criterion claims that there are five voting issues in debate.
    1. Topicality—Does the proposed plan reasonably adhere to the limitations of the resolution?
    2. Significance—Is there a justification to change from the present system?
    3. Inherency—Is there a clear barrier that prevents the present system from solving the problem indicated by the Affirmative?

4. Solvency—Can the proposed plan solve the problems better than the present system?
5. Disadvantages—Do the advantages of the proposal outweigh the disadvantages presented by the Negative?  
**\*\*\*\*In order for the Negative team to win the round they must clearly get a “NO” answer to ONE or more of the above questions.**

- B. Policy Maker Judging Criterion: This criterion claims that the winning team is the one that presents the superior policy option.
1. The Affirmative should win the round if its policy option meets the resolution (is topical) and the gains advantages that outweigh the disadvantages presented by the negative.
  2. The Negative team should win the round if it proves that the Affirmative team’s plan is not topical or if the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

Regardless of the model used to judge the debate, please allow the debaters to resolve the issues themselves. The decision should be based on what the debaters say in the round, not the judge’s personal feelings or opinions.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE JUDGING OF TEAM DEBATE

1. The debate topic is **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.
2. Remember: the rules for Team Debate are not the same as those for Lincoln Douglas. The specific rules for Team Debate 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 at the end of the round. **DO NOT QUESTION THE STUDENTS ABOUT THE RULES.**
3. Remember: rules for High School Team Debate are often different from College Debate or other contests. Judge according to the High School rules.

4. Please give full and undivided attention to the each speaker at all times.
5. No oral critiques are to be issued to the students because of the time they consume. (Please do not talk to the student about their debate if you see them after the round. If any student asks you for comments, please tell them that oral comments are against the rules.)
6. Judges should NOT confer before making and returning the ballot. Please make your decision independently.
7. Judges shall NOT request any evidence from the debaters except when the evidence is challenged as invalid by the opposing debater in the round.
8. Judges are to refrain from smoking and eating while the students are competing.
9. Please silence all pagers and cell phones.
10. Judges are strongly encouraged to take notes!