

# Judging Cheat Sheet

(Your ballot and decision is completely confidential until after the final award ceremony!)

Before the Round:

- Ask who is the 1st Affirmative Speaker, 2nd Affirmative Speaker, 1st Negative Speaker, 2nd Negative Speaker. Write those names on the ballot in the appropriate places.

During the Round:

- On the scratch paper provided, take detailed notes of what happens in the round (arguments given, etc) to help you judge once the round is over.

After the Round:

- Step 1: Decide which team won (affirmative or negative). Please keep the stock issues in mind (affirmative needs to win all four stock issues to win the debate, negative just needs to win one stock issue to win the debate), as well as advantage and disadvantages.

Significance: Is the problem that the affirmative team is trying to fix a real problem that needs to be fixed?

Inherency: Is this plan already in action in the real world? Or about to be passed into real world legislation? Or going to just go away by itself? (If the negative has proven the answer to any of these questions is "yes," the affirmative loses.)

Solvency: Will the affirmative's plan really solve the problem? Will it work?

Topicality: Is the affirmative's plan comprehensive state/federal election law reform?

- Step 2: Assign room rank. Who was the best debater? Second best? Third best? Fourth best? No ties.
- Step 3: Assign Speaker Points. Speaker points are based on the various categories. Once you are done, make sure that your #1 speaker based on room rank ended up with the highest speaker points, #2 the second highest, etc. If you find some discrepancy, adjust your speaker points.
- **Step 4: GO TO THE JUDGE ROOM! They will make a copy of your scores to send to the tab room. We need to get these scores to the tab room ASAP in order for them to determine who will be debating whom for the next round. They will give you your ballot back.**
- Step 5: When you are given your ballot back, take a seat in the judge room and fill out both your reason for the win/loss decision, as well as comments for the individual debaters. Make sure you include some positive encouragement as well as critique for each debater. We have a lot of brand new teams in this tournament, so please make sure you don't crush them with your comments.
- Step 6: Return your fully completed ballot to the judges room.