



Seattle IV 2022

Judging In Person
Sat Sun YODL Format

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with thanks to
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The background is split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right. The upper-left portion is white, and the lower-right portion is dark gray with a repeating pattern of small, light gray circles.

Judging at the Tournament

Step 0 for YODL Sat and Sun: Handle Motion Strikes



Step 0 for YODL

Sat Sun:

Handle Motion Strikes

- 5 motions will be released in the General Assembly (Auditorium) immediately prior to the start of each round, and all teams and judges should review them *on their way to their rooms*.
- Once all judges and debaters are in their room, Chairs manage the motion strike process.
- Chairs ask teams to strike in this order: CO, CG, OO, OG (reversed from speaking order).
- Each team has 60 seconds to strike a motion.

Step 0 for YODL

Sat Sun: Handle Motion Strikes

- Should a team decline or fail to strike in the allotted time, they forfeit their strike and when the process reaches them, OG may select any of the remaining motions for debate.
- Should OG decline or fail to strike in the allotted time, the Chair will select the motion.
- Once the motion for your room is chosen, the 15 minutes of prep will begin immediately.

**Step 1:
During the
Debate—Be a
Supportive Judge**



Step 1: Be a supportive, treat people right judge.

- Provide opportunity for each debater to state pronouns and anything that is important to them—respect what they say
- Treat each and every participant with support and equity.

Step 1: Be a supportive, equitable judge.

- Don't favor someone;
don't disfavor someone
- Make the round
inclusive—everyone
should feel empowered to
participate
- Carefully listen to the
debaters
- Take Notes.

Step 1: Be a supportive judge respecting differences.

- Be supportive of those who speak differently from what you are used to hearing
- Be supportive of those whose experiences are different than yours.

Step 1: Be a supportive, listening judge.

- Take notes
- Listen thoughtfully
- Show support for each debater.

A Few Things on Info Slides

- **INFO SLIDES** help provide information and context for topics.
- **INFO SLIDES** do not preclude additional information that debaters may provide in a debate.
- **INFO SLIDES** are not argument slides; they explain the situation in which you debate the motion.

A Few Things on POIs

- Debaters have 15 seconds to ask a question during unprotected time. Speakers can and should interrupt at 15 seconds.
- Speakers should take 1 or 2 POIs; teams should take 3 or 4 POIS.
- Judges should take note of who is seeking POIs and which team's POI's are being taken.
 - Example: If OG has requested a POI 4 times and CO doesn't take them but takes CG the first and only time they stand up, that is likely indicative of CO being unwilling to engage with OG.
- Debaters who are waved down from asking a POI, along with the rest of the bench need to wait 15 seconds before requesting another POI.

Step 2:

Debate Concludes

**Judges rank and score
speakers to themselves**



- **As a Judge**

- Consider yourself an average, intelligent person

- Without specialized knowledge but also not unaware.



As a Judge . . .

- Be Open Minded
- Assess arguments as the _debaters_ made and refuted them
- Judges do NOT refute arguments—that is the debaters' job
- Judge should be willing to be persuaded
- Should follow BP Rules
- and Common Sense.



How NOT to judge

- DO NOT: Count the number of arguments and use that as a basis to determine a winner
- DO NOT: Rank based on style, speaking—your ranking should be based on the teams that presented the most important arguments.



How NOT to judge

- DO NOT: Insert your specific knowledge into assessing an argument
 - If a team makes a statement you know is factually wrong, but no other team challenges it, you cannot use the fact that you know it is factually wrong to adjudicate the debate.
- However, if a team says something that goes against common sense, it's fine to penalize them
 - For example: 'Joe Biden lost the election', 'North Korea is a functional democracy', 'China is a country in Africa.'

Rank 1, 2, 3, 4

- TEAM RANKINGS ARE 1, 2, 3, 4.
- The team with the
 - *unique material that is
 - *best mechanized
 - *and most relevantshould be ranked better with consideration for refutation, modeling in the PMC, and adherence to BP rules during a debate.

Unique Material Counts

- **UNIQUE MATERIAL**—The argument/analysis was first presented by the team in the debate
- Teams making arguments that were already raised in the debate—those arguments should not count (or at least count very little).
- However, if a team makes significantly new analysis and points on an issue—that new analysis and points should count.

Best Mechanized

- **BEST MECHANIZED**—The argument is explained well, shows how it works/happens, supported by good reasons, examples, evidence and is believable.

Most Relevant

- **MOST RELEVANT**—The argument is applicable to the key issues on the motion. Usually, this means the argument is:
 - 1) relevant to the stakeholders—the people/group/institution most important to the motion
 - 2) Relevant to the burdens/frameworks the debaters have presented
 - 3) Is shown to be most probable/likely and the strongest principal and/or consequences relevant to the stakeholders/burdens/motion.

**Weigh Unique
Material
that is best
mechanized
and most relevant**

- So again . . . After you've identified the **UNIQUE MATERIAL—WEIGH WHICH ARGUMENT WAS BEST MECHANIZED AND MOST RELEVANT**
- With these provisos . . .

Consider also . . .

- Teams are also assessed based on . . .
- Refutation
- Rebuilding of Partner's Arguments (NOT rebuilding of other teams' arguments including closing debaters do NOT get assessed very much if at all on rebuilding the opening team's arguments)
- Debaters do their speaking position in a way that helped advance arguments in the debate (especially the PMC with MODELING—setting up what is to be debated)
- Adherence to BP Rules.

Do not rank based on . . .

Teams are NOT ranked
based on

- How well they speak
- The personal/group identity experiences expressed in arguments don't match up with yours
- Carefully crafted wording that may not be accessible to all in the round.

- From the USUDC Debater and Judge Briefing 2020

BP IS NOT AN ORATORY COMPETITION

- A team that gets up and repeats the arguments made by a team in their front half in a fancier sounding way with no additional substantive contributions is **NOT** making a new contribution to the debate
- **DO NOT** justify rankings based on “X speaker was more rhetorically persuasive” or “X speaker was a better orator.” BP judging is based on a holistic assessment of the contributions made by teams in the round, not on the basis that a team made a point in a nice sounding way.
- **Be careful** and be aware of implicit biases you may have regarding accents, ESL/EFL status, etc. Explicitly calling out a team(s) or speaker(s) rhetorical performance as inferior and using this to justify why they lost is an equity violation
- Having a deep voice and being a cis man is not grounds to bump a debater's speaks

Step 3: Chair asks for discussion of Rankings



A Special Note to YODL Judges

- Sat-Sun YODL Judging
- You will deliberate while debaters are present in the room
- The deliberation thus is educational while being transparent
- And of course, as always, be honest but kind—respecting students and their arguments.

Involve All

- Chairs . . .
- Give each judge a chance to state their rankings
- and
- to give _concise_ rationales for those rankings
- Differences in opinions?
Focus on that and find out a way to compromise considering the reasons for the rankings.

Weigh Unique Arguments best mechanized and most relevant

- REFRESHER
- After you've identified the UNIQUE MATERIAL—WEIGH WHICH ARGUMENT WAS BEST MECHANIZED AND MOST RELEVANT
- With the PROVISO that you consider Refutation, Rebuilding of _Partner's_ arguments, Modeling, and BP Rules.

Finish up in 15 minutes

- Chairs should give each person a chance to be heard but . . .
- keep on track to complete the rankings & speaks in 15 minutes
- Compromise when it makes sense, support rankings when that makes sense
- Can't all agree?
 - Have 3 Judges? You can have a split with 2 of 3 judges deciding.
 - Have 2 Judges? The Chair decides.

Chair: Sum it up

- Chairs should sum up the decision
- If possible, add on a sentence or two for each team on what they needed to do to rank higher
- E.g. “Okay, we gave the CG team the third because their arguments needed more mechanization versus the OO. Giving more examples and showing how carbon permits work might have improved their ranking.”
- Get confirmation from the other judges that your ranking list is what you have agreed on.

Ask debaters to leave

- If appropriate, remind debaters they can contact you/wings to provide individualized feedback
- Ask the debaters to leave so you can discuss speaker points (this deliberation is NOT done in front of the debaters)

Step 4:

Discuss Speaks



Discuss Speaks

Chairs . . .

- Give each judge a chance to state their speaker points
- Remember that teams with better rankings must get better speaker points
- Often, averaging panelists' scores solves differences.
- **REMEMBER:** Deliberation including speaks can be 15 minutes **AT MOST**. If no consensus, vote.



Point Scale Refresher

86+ Unbelievably good—flawless.

80-85 Very good—arguments at a high level in all ways.

76-79 Above average—mostly good arguments

70-75 Average—some decent and some weak arguments

65-69 Needs major work—weaker arguments

64- Very serious problems in arguments, rude or inappropriate

****Stronger arguments are unique, most mechanized, and most relevant.**

And, consider modeling, refutation, rebuilding and rules adherence.**

REMEMBER

- Style is important for clarity, but is ultimately irrelevant for content. **Be careful of bias in favour of native english speakers.**
- Be careful of bias in favor of experiences and identities especially those prominent in your larger community/culture. Accept and respect difference in the speaker points you give.

REMEMBER

- No one should receive high points nor rank highly in a round by reputation alone
- Do not reduce a score because the other speeches were bad, and do not increase one because everyone else was excellent.

Step 5: Submit the Ballot!



Submit Ballots within 15 minutes

Type in your rankings and points!

You have 15 minutes—we will go to your room and request a ballot asap if we have not received it.

Be Ready for the Next Round
and Have a Great
Tournament!

