

Griffin Invitational Forensics Tournament NPDA Parliamentary Debate Judging Guidelines

Thank you for judging. Below is a quick guide for judging NPDA.

1. The debaters will have received their topic in a central topic area in our Student Center, they will have had 20 minutes to prepare. So, when they arrive to your room, they are ready to begin debating.
2. Welcome the debaters. Check that you have the debaters that are on your ballot in your room. Please verbally check that you know which student is in which position, so that you can award speaker points at the conclusion of the debate on your ballot.
3. Some judges still introduce the speeches by titles and times. (For example: "We thank the Prime Minister and recognize the Leader of the Opposition for a constructive speech not to exceed 8 minutes.") But most judges no longer follow this tradition.
4. Below are the times. The competitors may time themselves using their cell phones. However, you should also time and if they are over time, please announce "time", and they should stop speaking. Speeches should not exceed the following times. There is no preparation time between speeches other than in flex time.

7 minutes: **PM (Prime Minister)** Constructive

2 minute flex for question/prep

8 minutes: **LO (Leader of the Opposition)** Constructive

2 minute flex for question/prep

8 minutes: **MG (Member of the Government)** Constructive

1 minute flex for question/prep

8 minutes: **MO (Member of the Opposition)** Constructive

4 minutes: **LO (Leader of the Opposition)** Rebuttal

1 minute flex for question/prep

5 minutes: **PM (Prime Minister)** Rebuttal

{No new arguments in Rebuttals new extensions/examples O.K.}

5. **Points of Information (POI's)** are allowed during constructive speeches only and only after the first minute and before the last minute of the speech. Speaking time does not stop during POI's. POI's are for the non-speaking side to ask brief questions. The speaker can decide whether or not to accept the POI.
6. **Points of Order** may be used by the non-speaking side to point out a rule violation, such as making a new argument in rebuttals. The time should stop when a Point of Order has been requested in rebuttals. You, as the judge should ask for a brief response by the member who is asking to rule on a violation and then you should hear a response from the speaker to give their response to the violation. Then you can agree with the violation by saying: "Point well taken" or reject the POO, by saying point not well taken or point taken under consideration if you will decide after the debate.
7. **Please do not provide oral critiques until after you have submitted your ballot!!!**
Oral critiques are discouraged for tournament management. Also, your ballot critiques will go back to the coach, and will be more valuable than a competitor trying to remember your critique to tell their coach a day or two later.

8. ELECTRONIC USE POLICY IN DEBATE. In accordance with NPDA Bylaws, and mirrored by PSCFA, electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round allowed; however, the device must be on airplane mode to prevent the sharing of documents in the round. Additionally, during preparation time, copying and pasting previously prepared material is not allowed. All material brought into the debate must be typed by the debaters during prep time.

Written materials: Debaters are allowed to refer to written materials during prep time, but they may not actually read such material during the round beyond what notes they wrote in prep. NPDA allows the use of devices to flow and take time, but not to ever research point or communicate to others.

9. Writing Your ballot: write the decisions and reasons for the decision on the ballot. Please be constructive. Rank speakers 1-4 (no ties) and rate them up to 30 points each (ties permitted). A range from 24-28 is “common”. 0-20 points are discouraged unless the debaters were very rude, or disruptive. If you give a score between 0-20, come to the Griffin Gate and check in with the monitor, to let them know there was a serious problem with a debater. 30 points is perfect, which is also rare. Reserve that score for a truly outstanding debater.

Forfeit Rule: After the 20 minutes prep period the debaters should be ready to debate. Allow a minute or two grace period. Please keep the tournament on time. 5 minutes is the maximum tardiness allowed.

Final Round Judging: Do not consult with the other judges, prior to submitting your ballots. If you are asked to reveal your decision, you should have the debaters leave the room, while the 3 judges make their final critiques on their ballots. Then you can each share your decision, so that when the teams return, the “chair” will announce the winning team, giving the decision as a 3-0 or 2-1. Then each judge can briefly give their reason for their decision, knowing that the next round is about to begin. Please keep your comments brief.

10. Your ballot is the most important information for the coach to be able to help the student improve on their next tournament experience. It is very difficult for the student to relay clearly your oral comments after several rounds of competition and preparing to go to another round.

Thank you for judging at the Griffin!