International Public Debate Association

IPDA

2025 IPDA Nationals

Judge: _____

Division: _____ Round: _____

Room: _____

RESOLUTION

AFFIRMATIVE ← Circle the Winner → **NEGATIVE**

Please assign a speaker point total from 0-40 for each speaker, utilizing the scale below. You may wish to consider the points categories on the back of this ballot - but only the points entered here will be considered for tabulation purposes.

SPEAKER POINTS	Please rate the speakers by assigning a score in the "speaker points" box based upon the following scale: 40-36 Superior Quality, 35-31 Above Average, 30-26 Needs Work, 20 and below Poor Quality.	SPEAKER POINTS

I vote for the (AFFIRMATIVE / NEGATIVE) Represented by _____ _____

(circle one) (competitor name) (judge's signature/program)

☐ Please check this box if this is a low point win (judges may award the win to the person with fewer speaker points if they feel that competitor won the debate)

What were the key Affirmative arguments?	What were the key Negative arguments?
What did you like best about the Affirmative?	What did you like best about the Negative?
Where can the Affirmative improve?	Where can the Negative improve?

PLEASE PROVIDE THE REASON(S) FOR YOUR DECISION:

IPDA Judges' Instruction Sheet

You will likely listen to two separate debates unless otherwise specified. They will be back-to-back. Please make sure you have the correct debaters and use the following criteria to help you judge the round. Thank you for your help in making this tournament possible.

Times of each Debate

1st Affirmative- 5 minutes

Neg. Cross Exam- 2 minutes

1st Negative- 6 minutes

Aff. Cross Exam- 2 minutes

2nd Affirmative- 3 minutes

2nd Negative- 5 minutes

Final Affirmative- 3 minutes

Keep the Debate Moving The debaters should be timing themselves ethically. Please keep the debate moving. Speakers should be prepared to speak immediately following each other. Allowing reasonable time (up to 10 seconds) is okay.

Determining Speaker Points: 1 pt is poor and 5 pts is excellent

You may wish to use the following categories with 1-5 points assigned for each in determining speaker points for the front of this ballot:

Affirmative		Negative
_____	Delivery	_____
_____	Courtesy	_____
_____	Appropriate Tone	_____
_____	Organization	_____
_____	Logic	_____
_____	Support	_____
_____	Cross Examination	_____
_____	Refutation	_____

Filling out the ballot and deciding the round

Ethics in Judging - Though a debater may be arguing a position that you may differ with, please let the debaters do the arguing. Judges should at all times practice objectivity and openness to new ideas, and work to provide positive and constructive written comments, decisions, and evaluations to help competitors achieve success, regardless of affiliation. JUDGES SHOULD NOT STOP THE ROUND FOR COMMENTS.

Provide Written Comments - As you listen, please write comments on the ballot in the appropriate areas for each debater. It is quite important for you to provide reasons for voting the way you did. **DO NOT provide oral comments** to the debaters during or after the round. Do not disclose your decision for any preliminary rounds.

DO NOT Discuss The Round With Anyone Until Your Ballot Is Completed - Each judge should reach his/her decision on their own (even if there is a panel of multiple judges). Judges should not discuss the round with anyone (including audience members, debaters, or other judges) until their ballot is completed and turned in. The only exception to this rule is if the judge has a question about how to complete a section (for example what is a "low point win"), they may ask for instruction at the ballot table.

Rules of the debate

Electronic Devices – Debaters should bring a timer/stopwatch for use during rounds. However, no electronic devices capable of receiving and/or retrieving data (cellular phones, laptop computers, etc.) may be used during a debate; exceptions to this rule will be granted based solely upon A.D.A. compliance.

Ethics for Competitors – Competitors should maintain credibility, honesty, integrity and courtesy at all times during their participation in and around tournaments. Their delivery should be of a credible nature, including topic interpretation and argumentation. They should be encouraged to constructively discuss controversial issues, yet treat opponents and persons with respect. In addition, all actions at IPDA events should promote a positive image for the IPDA.

Definitions – The Affirmative has the right to define, but must do so reasonably. Affirmative interpretations and definitions must leave Negatives fair ground for the debate. If an Affirmative's case is too lopsided and/or tautological (used to define itself as winning by definition), this opens the door for the Negative to provide an alternate set of definitions. But the Negative can only redefine terms if the Affirmative has abused its definitional privilege. If the Affirmative can demonstrate they have met the aforementioned burdens when challenged, then Affirmative definitions will have presumption. The judge is the final arbiter of definitional squabbles.

Evidence – Contestants may not bring printed reference materials into the round with them. No "reading" of evidence will be permitted. They may only bring and reference handwritten case outlines and limited notes which they have worked up during the round's preparation time. Evidence must be memorized or paraphrased for use during debates.

Thank you for judging!