

SPAR Rules

Remember students need to SPAR against other students, so please plan accordingly and make sure that you always have two students in the room.

Judging Instructions

Judges, please sit in the middle of the room and make sure no one is blocking your view of the performance area. It is acceptable to ask students or parents to move so that you may be able to see the speaker. Designate two chairs in the front of the room to be the preparation chairs for the competitors.

Call roll to find out which competitors are in the room. You may start the round even if you do not have all of the competitors. Some competitors may be triple entered. Pick a topic and two debaters to compete. You will have more than enough topics so if you see a debate topic that you do not like, you can skip it. Each pair receives a new topic. Pick any two debaters from your list, but it is easier to go in order, pairing competitor 1 with competitor 2 and so on. If you have an odd number of competitors then a competitor may debate twice, but only the first performance will be judged. After you have selected your debaters, assign one debater to be affirmative (Pro) and one debater to be negative (Con).

Students are ranked from 1 to 5. The top speaker in the round is given 1 and the lowest speaker receives a 5. If you have more than 4 students in your round, the remaining students will all receive 5's. Students will also receive speaker points. The range for speaker points is 1 – 25. Scores under 17 should be reserved for speakers who do not speak or say something offensive. Competitors cannot tie on speaker points. If you have 2 or more students receiving a 4th place ranking, they should all have different speaker points.

(e.g. 1st place rank = 24 speaker points,

2nd place rank = 23 speaker points,

3rd place rank = 22 speaker points,

4th place rank = 21 speaker points,

5th place rank = 20 speaker points,

second

5th place rank = 19 speaker points.

**** Please note these are just examples and you may award points however you determine.)*

SPAR timing format

- 2 minutes for preparation. (Both students will prep at the same time.)
- 2 minutes for Affirmative/Pro speech
- 2 minute Negative cross examines Affirmative
- 2 minutes for Negative/Con speech
- 2 minute Affirmative cross examines Negative
- 1 minute for affirmative rebuttal
- 1 minute for negative rebuttal

This tournament's cross examination:

Instead of a cross fire style cross examination will follow a controlled format. After the first affirmative speech the Negative Speaker will ask the affirmative questions. Only the Negative speaker is allowed to ask questions during this time. After the negative speech affirmative will cross examine the negative speaker and only the affirmative speaker can ask questions. **Audience members will not be allowed to ask questions during cross examination periods.**