

Public Forum Debate

1. Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Each team shall be comprised of two debaters, each representing the same member school. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a “lay” judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.
2. In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:
 - Which team is more persuasive?
 - Did the debaters back up their assertions with logical thinking and evidence when needed?
 - Were the debaters fair in their interpretation of the resolution and one another’s statements?
 - Were the arguments intelligent? Did the debaters try to use many weak arguments instead of a few solid ones?
 - Did the debaters speak in such a way that their ideas were understandable?
 - Were the debaters courteous and professional?
3. Judges may not discuss the debate either with each other or with the debaters.
4. The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values should not influence the decision.

SIDES AND SPEAKING ORDER ARE SET IN CFL PUBLIC FORUM. Questions about rules or misconduct should be brought to the Tab Room **before you submit your ballot**, NOT to the students.

Speech Times

1st Pro	4 min
1st Con.....	4 min
Crossfire (Con asks first Q).....	3 min
2nd Pro.....	4 min
2nd Con.....	4 min
Crossfire (Pro asks first Q)	3 min
1st Pro Summary.....	3 min
1st Con Summary	3 min
Grand Crossfire (Pro asks first Q).....	3 min
2nd Pro Final Focus.....	2 min
2nd Con Final Focus	2 min
Prep Time (per team).....	3 min

Speaker Point Scale

Award points **per team**, not per speaker.

29.5-30.0	Exemplary [A+]
27.5-29.0	Accomplished [A/A-]
25.5-27.0	Competent [B+/B]
23.5-25.0	Developing [B-/C+]
22.0-23.0	Emerging [C or below]
< 22.0	Justify to Tab

We are all influenced by implicit bias or stereotypes that, when unchecked, influence our judging in ways that may negatively impact the students we are called to judge impartially. Before writing comments or making a decision, please take a moment to reflect on any preconceived notions you may hold that may impact your decision-making process and/or jeopardize the student experience.

To ensure a more equitable experience for our participants, please be sure your decision-making process and comments are related only to the content and quality of the presentation or speech itself.