

Quebec Student Debating Association

Remarks to judges

1. Objectivity is the essential quality of a judge. One must forget his / her personal opinions and feelings when judging.
2. It's useful to take some notes. Some suggest a 4-square grid to jot down the back and forth movement between the two teams.
3. It is true that one team might have a tougher job than the other, but teams will have to debate both sides of any prepared round. Judge the debate based on who was more convincing in their arguments.
4. Although all debaters may not have the same speaking times, it is important to remember that each has a particular responsibility in the debate.
5. Do not finalize scores before the end of the debate.
6. If you need time between the speeches, please let the moderator or speaker know.
7. Do not consult with the other judges; it is easier if you sit far apart.
8. We ask you not to give below 60%. Inexperienced judges should be very careful about giving high scores in the first round. See the enclosed chart for details on what marks you should be giving.
9. Be sure to circle the winning team, but do not indicate in your comments which team has won. You must also not reveal scores, but speakers appreciate a brief comment at the end of the debate, one strong point and one which might require some improvement.
10. There is no penalty per se for a shorter speech, however it will probably lack in content or refutation. A concise speech is preferable to a repetitive one, where a speaker is obviously killing time. After 15 seconds of grace, a speaker must sit down.
11. Do not forget to write down your name, the round, the room number, the number of judges, and the names of the four speakers at the top of the score sheet. Also be sure to write down the correct team code.