

Quebec Student Debating Association

Scoring Range

50 – 59 (very rare): This speech was quite poor. A debater who makes an honest effort should not receive a score this low. This score should only be given to someone who is offensive, seriously violates the rules and/or generally ruins the nature of the debate. You must be able to justify this score.

60 - 69 (about 5% of speeches): This speech was poor. Stylistically it was weak and from the perspective of matter brought very little if anything to the round. Most debaters who receive this score will not have filled their time. There was an honest attempt made to debate, but it was generally ineffective and lacked any real structure. Scores in the higher end of this range will show some attempt to deal with the issues and the actual topic, but was still a poor speech.

70 - 74 (about 15% of speeches): This speech was below average. Although the debater may have filled most of their time, there were significant gaps in both style and logic that detracted from the speech. While the debater had an understanding of the issues in the round, he/she did not do a great job addressing them. This debater likely did not offer any points of information, or answer or deal with any effectively.

75 - 79 (about 30% of speeches): This speech was average. The debater was competent and generally managed to identify the major issues in the debate, both in constructive arguments and in refutation. He/she presented sufficient matter which was generally well organized. Stylistically he/she was not brilliant but at least easy to listen to, and he/she at least offered or answered some points of information. The debater will likely have filled time, and generally did all they were supposed to do.

80 - 84 (about 35% of speeches): This speech was generally very good. A score of 80% is the benchmark for someone who did everything they were supposed to, and did it reasonably well. The debater filled all of their time, offered good points of information and answered them effectively, constructed relevant arguments in a logical and organized manner, refuted all arguments adequately, was stylistically excellent and/or had interesting and thought provoking analysis. This debater did what they were called on to do and it was generally a polished speech.

85 – 89 (about 15% of speeches): This speech was outstanding. The debater had excellent style and charisma, and brilliant analysis. He/She brought up arguments that were insightful, creative, relevant and well developed. This debater offered excellent points of information, and answered any that were asked confidently and effectively All arguments were refuted systematically and thoroughly. A debater who averages these scores over all of their rounds should win, or come close to, the top speaker award. Awarding this score means that you think there is a good chance this will happen, and to give a score in the higher end of this range means that it was one of the best speeches you have seen in a long time.

90 (very rare): This was one of the most brilliant speeches you have ever heard. Stylistically it was flawless. The argumentation and analysis were far beyond what one would expect from a high school student. There might see one or two of these speeches over the course of an entire season, and even if it happens, 90 is high as you should go. This person was a joy to listen to and you were sad when his/her time elapsed. You should be prepared to justify why you gave this score.