

BALLOTS

Ballots are the most direct and important feedback you can receive on your performance, and merit much of your attention. Here are a few strategies to break them down into actionable plans for improving your performance.

Be sure to keep all of your ballots throughout the year, and from time to time, look through them and sort the feedback into categories, focusing on the type of comment and how many times it comes up. For example, if you receive a comment on 60% of your ballots asking you to slow down, it's time to slow down and cut from your speech. Paying attention to how often you get a certain type of comment is an indispensable way of making your performance accessible for a large audience.

Occasionally you'll get feedback that points out a problem, but does not offer a clear solution. While this can be frustrating, that doesn't mean it isn't valuable. Receiving a lot of comments that say your first point is confusing illustrates the problem you need to solve. With feedback like this, brainstorm possible solutions and pay attention to how these changes are perceived on ballots after they have been made. Once you stop receiving feedback about clarity in your first point, you know you have successfully solved the problem!

Finally, don't ignore comments if they only appear on one ballot. Good ballot analysis is a balance between quality and quantity of feedback. If you read a comment that makes you stop and think about how you've constructed your performance, then it's likely a very good piece of feedback even if nobody else has pointed it out. The next time you hit a roadblock when thinking about how to improve your performance, look through your old ballots. Often enough, a comment you had forgotten about or written off earlier will provide you the inspiration you need to make the necessary changes!

Ranking

- Debate Events:
 - You'll receive either a win or a loss, as well as speaker points. These are out of 30, and the higher, the better.
- Congress:
 - You'll receive an overall rank out of 15, one being the best in the session. Each speech will be ranked 1-6, the higher the better.
- Speech Events:
 - You'll be ranked from 1-7 (or how many people are in your round), one being the best. You'll also receive speaker points out of 100, and the higher, the better.

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE

Public Forum Debate Ballot

Tournament Name	Tournament Location
Round/Topic	Judge Name
Team Name	Affiliation/ Occupation

Readership/ Topic:

EVERY round begins with a coin toss, the winning team has the option of choosing either the side (pro or con) or the speaking order (first or second) in the round; the losing team makes the remaining choice, either side or speaking order.

AFTER the coin toss, record the following (the team on the left speaks first and should sit to the judge's left).

First Team				Second Team			
Code	Side	Order	Points	Code	Side	Order	Points
Speaker 1				Speaker 2			
Speaker 2				Speaker 3			
Speaker 3				Speaker 4			
Speaker 4				Speaker 5			

Rate each speaker: < 20 Unethical/Inappropriate Behavior 20-23 Below Average 24-26 Average 27-28 Above Average 29-30 Outstanding

Winning Team: Pro Con Team/Code:

Judges should decide the round as it is debated, not based on their personal beliefs.
 Debaters should advocate or reject the resolution in manner clear to the non-specialist citizen judge (i.e. juror). Clash of ideas is essential to debate.
 Debaters should display solid logic and reasoning, advocate positions, utilize evidence, and communicate clear ideas using professional discourse.
 Neither the pro nor con is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan, defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
 Crossfire time should be dedicated to questions and answers rather than reading evidence. Evidence may be referred to extemporaneously.
 No new arguments may be introduced in the final focus; however, debaters may include new evidence to support prior arguments.

Comments to debaters:

Reasons for Decision (cite specific arguments that had a bearing):

Order/Time Limits of Speeches:

- Speaker 1: 4 min.
- Speaker 2: 4 min.
- Crossfire (1 & 2): 3 min.
- Speaker 3: 4 min.
- Speaker 4: 4 min.
- Crossfire (3 & 4): 3 min.
- Speaker 5: 4 min.
- Speaker 6: 4 min.
- Crossfire (5 & 6): 3 min.
- Speaker 7: 4 min.
- Speaker 8: 4 min.
- General Crossfire (all): 3 min.
- Speaker 9: 4 min.
- Speaker 10: 4 min.
- Final Focus: 3 min.
- 2 minutes of Prep. Time per side
- * The first question is asked by the earlier speaker.

02/21/2014

Original Oratory Comment Sheet



Contestant Name _____ Code _____

Round _____ Section _____ Speaker Time _____

Title/Topic _____

Judge Name _____ Judge Affiliation _____

Directions: Using the prompts below, please provide constructive feedback to the competitor. Your comments should highlight areas of strength as well as provide areas for growth. Be as specific as possible in your feedback. Use the space to expand your thoughts on any of these areas or to comment on specific moments or lines that stood out to you. Please do not comment on participants' attire or appearance; this should not play a role in your decision.

Importance
Is the topic significant? Is the thesis clearly established? Does the delivery assist in establishing the importance of the topic?

Relatability
Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Does the speaker establish how others are impacted by their topic? Is the rhetoric of the speech inclusive?

Originality
Does the speaker address the topic in a unique, inventive way? Are the supporting examples new and interesting?

Reason for Decision: (Why did this performance earn the rank that you assigned?)

Contestant Rank _____ / _____ Speaker Points _____ (out of 100)

Judge Signature _____