

Qualitative Assessment Project Year-One Debaters: Out-of-Round Assessment

Benchmark 2 - Debate Round Mechanics Role of the Judge, Function of the Ballot

Select the best answer from the set of options for each question.

1. (2 points) The ballot encompasses all of the following **except**:
 - a. an official record of who wins and loses a debate
 - b. a source of written feedback to the debaters, describing the strengths and weaknesses of the most important issues in the debate and the way they were debated
 - c. a set of ratings of each debater as an individual speaker in the debate
 - d. a formal expression of a judge’s own personal views on the issues being debated

2. (2 points) The **most important** role of the judge in a policy debate round is to:
 - a. provide non-verbal feedback to debaters during the round
 - b. learn about arguments on both sides of the topic
 - c. determine the winning team as well as assign speaker points to each debater after the round
 - d. keep order in the debate by timing and otherwise managing the room

3. (1point) Which of these should the judge avoid doing:
 - a. assigning more than one debater in a round the same number of speaker points
 - b. saying “slow down” out loud if a debater is speaking at a speed the judge cannot understand
 - c. assigning win/loss based on the relative stylistic strength of each team’s speaking
 - d. describing their own level of debate experience (or inexperience) in a pre-round “judge philosophy”

4. (1 point) What is the **MOST** effective way to convince a judge you have a superior policy option in the round:
 - a. speaking loudly and quickly during your speeches
 - b. weighing each side’s impacts using cost benefit analysis
 - c. being able to answer cross-examination questions
 - d. identifying all the cards your opponent dropped in the previous speech

Write 3 – 5 sentences that provide a clear answer to each question.

5. (4 points) What is the distinction between and use of speaker points and speaker ranks on a debate ballot?

Benchmark 3 – Debate Round Scheduling

Pairings, Preliminary Rounds, Elimination Rounds

Multiple Choice

Select the best answer from the set of options for each question.

1. (1 point) Preliminary round power-matching means that teams are matched up to debate each other in a round based on:
 - a. how many rounds each team has won at that tournament
 - b. an alphabetical list of the schools
 - c. which teams are running the newest affirmative case
 - d. pre-tournament "seedings" (i.e., rankings) of all teams in a division

2. (1 point) A team can be assigned a bye in a preliminary round if:
 - a. there is an odd number of teams in the tournament
 - b. that team has the worst win/loss record in that power matched round
 - c. their opponents do not show up
 - d. all of the above

3. (2 points) A pairing for preliminary round 4 contains which of the following pieces of information, either explicitly or implicitly:
 - a. relative ranking of each team in the tournament based on how well they have done at previous tournaments
 - b. the relative ranking or quality of each judge, as determined by the tabulation room program
 - c. the side (affirmative or negative) each team debated in round 3
 - d. all of the above

Short Response - Write 3 – 5 sentences that provide a clear answer to each question.

4. (2 points) In a tournament that breaks to quarter-final rounds, identify which number seed (ranked team) debates which other number seed in each of the four quarter-final rounds.

5. (4 points) Identify three significant structural differences between preliminary rounds and elimination rounds at a debate tournament. For instance, prelims come before elims would not be considered significant.

Benchmark 4 – Competitive Mechanics

Seedings, Elim Structure, Speaker Points, and Awards

Short Response - Write 3 – 5 sentences that provide a clear answer to each question.

1. (4 points) Explain the difference between “total speaker points” and “Drop High/Low speaker points,” and identify why Drop High/Low speaker points are more often the first criteria for individual speakers when determining speaker awards.

2. (3 points) Explain the difference between a “lock out” and “locked sides” in the context of elimination rounds.

Multiple Choice (1 point each)- Select the best answer from the set of options for each question.

3. Identify whether each of the following statements are true or false.

a. For the purposes of identifying speaker award winners, the highest number of points a speaker receives is doubled when determining an individual debater's ranking: ____ True ____ False

b. A school's total wins factor into whether an individual team from that *school* advances to the elimination rounds: ____ True ____ False

c. On an elimination round panel, it is considered illegitimate for judges to confer with each other before making their decisions about who won and lost the debate round. ____ True ____ False

4. Write down the number of JV teams that debate in each JV elimination round:

____ teams debate in finals
____ teams debate in semifinals
____ teams debate in quarterfinals

5. Put the following teams in order, with 1 being the team with the best record at this tournament and 4 the worst.

Rank # ____ SchoolName CD (4 wins) (275 speaker points)
Rank # ____ SchoolName YZ (3 wins) (290 speaker points)
Rank # ____ SchoolName MN (4 wins) (280 speaker points)
Rank # ____ SchoolName AB (5 wins) (275 speaker points)