

Judge Adaptation

UIL SuperConference 2024

by Rich Edwards, Baylor University

A Philosophy of Judge Adaptation

1. Assuming you want to win, the judge is always right; Don't upset the judge! (take care in pre-round behavior and questions)
2. Adaptation is a valuable “real world” skill – this is how you would find success in professional sales, in the corporate boardroom, in the law, or elsewhere.
3. Before adaptation is possible, knowledge about the judge is required



How Does One Learn About a Judge?

1. You can access judge paradigms from UIL State Debate (Google: “UIL LD State Judges” or “UIL CX State Judges” – even if your current tournament is not UIL State, the judge may have a paradigm posted there. You can also search in tabroom.com at <https://www.tabroom.com/index/paradigm.mhtml>
2. Have you had the judge before? Consider starting your own squad file of judge experiences with an alpha list of judges including significant comments made on ballots. Keep it all positive and constructive!! (you never know who may later see it)



Key Adaptation Questions:

1. Technical or Lay Judge?
2. What about Speed?
3. Model for Judging: Stock Issues, Policy Maker, or Tabula Rasa?



Technical Judge

This is an ex-debater, current or former debate coach

Using the UIL Paradigm Codes:

A = policy debater in high school

B = coach policy debate in high school

C = coach policy debate in college

D = college NDT debate

E = college CEDA debate

J = college LD debate

K = college parliamentary debate

What Does It Mean?

They will flow the debate

They most likely will know the arguments on the current topic

They know debate jargon, like “inherency,” “disad,” or “kritik”

ANDERSON, JOHN

Experience: (AB)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|
| Policymaker | Res. Issues | Equal | 5 | 3 |

Philosophy

<https://www.tabroom.com/index/paradigm.mhtml> The 1-5 scale is confusing and I take it seriously in my case. The 1NC is welcome to run any off-case positions (disadvantages) but I am highly skeptical of new off-case positions after the 1NC, so please no new off-case positions like solvency or harms attacks, but if I find myself wondering “why was the 1NC probably erring towards the aff or giving them a low threshold for response?”

Lay Judge

How will you know? You most likely will not have a paradigm for them; you will notice they are not flowing the round.

What Does It Mean?

Much less concern about “line-by-line” debate

Speak slower

Less quantity of evidence and more emphasis on author qualifications

More emphasis on general persuasion skills and explanations of arguments

Be very careful about strategic concessions – the strategy will have to be clearly explained.



What About Speed?

Does the judge address it on their paradigm?

If you are unfamiliar with the judge, watch them carefully to see if they are flowing.

Some experienced judges will put down their pen as a signal or they may even say something like “clear”



Policy or CX: Does the Judge Identify a Model?

Stock Issues Judge:

About 50% of the 123 Judge Pool; 30% of 456)

Traditional Legal Model

Affirmative has “burden of proof”

Negative can win on any one of Topicality, Significance of Harm, Inherency, Solvency, Disadvantage

Policy Maker Judge:

Legislative Model

Key question: Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

De-emphasis on Inherency

Tabula Rasa or Game Playing Judge:

No Model: More likely to welcome counterplan, kritik, or conditional arguments from the negative



HAYNES, TIMOTHY

Experience: (ABD)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Stock issues | Equal | Quality | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |

Philosophy

I am a stock issues judge---weighing the issues and arguments presented and effectively delivered. **Aff must meet the burden of proof** While Topicality is not always considered a stock issue, I will weigh those Neg arguments if appropriately applicable and cast a yea or nay ballot

Delivery

Not a fan of speed or spreading if not easily communicative. Communication of ideas and arguments is essential.

FEE, JEREMY

Experience: (A)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Stock issues | Equal | Equal | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

Philosophy

*Think of me as an "old school" judge. I want to hear traditional cases and arguments. I care about public speaking, philosophy, and logic, not just the evidence cards. Be mindful, reading a card doesn't mean the judge has to accept the argument you're associating with that evidence. *I will keep a detailed flow during the round. To help me flow, I like to hear each part of the case signposted in each speech. If I don't understand where to flow something, it might not make it onto my flow. *I like to hear voters in the final speeches. When possible, I will use those voters to determine my RFD. *If you are sharing case info for the round, here is my email: FeeJ@LISD.net

Delivery

*Please speak at a normal conversational speed. If debaters speak too quickly and are not clear, I will miss arguments/evidence and it won't get onto my flow for the round. *I encourage all debaters to be as polite and professional as possible. If someone is yelling or being rude, I can't focus on what they are saying and their arguments will not make it onto my flow.

ADCOCK, KENNETH

Experience: (ABCDEJK)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Stock issues | Res. Issues | Quality | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Philosophy

I tend to prioritize the STOCKS; I am a small school coach and put a ton of effort into these as it is the majority of the judging pool at the state contest, so it is the paradigm we spend the most time adapting to in our prep. I strive to be a TAB judge, but at the end of the round, I will default to the STOCKS, so I think you should spend a ton of time on these in my rounds. I can track with higher levels of debate but tend to keep my judging philosophy in line with the organization I find myself participating in, so since UIL places a premium on speaking, my ballots will reflect that. More technical teams could lose me easily if they do not control my ballot and tell me what I will be voting on at the end of the rounds. I would also encourage you to pull me up in the tabroom. There is a more up-to-date judging paradigm if you want to see more.

Delivery

I will prioritize UIL-style speaking and adapt to the organization and its norms/standards.

ACEVEDO, MANUEL

Experience: (A)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Policymaker | Equal | Equal | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

Philosophy

As a policymaker judge, I will weigh the advantages and disadvantages, plan vs CP, and impacts. I require both sides to provide offense to win. Sufficient evidence is needed for any point made through the entire debate. During the rebuttal speeches, give specific reasons why you don't agree with opposing team and provide supporting evidence. I do not intervene, so the debaters must tell me what is important and why I should vote for them. Even though I am a policy maker, the basics of CX debate should be followed such as retaining the stock issues. I do not form part of the email chain. I do not like reading speeches. I want to hear it. If it's important, make sure to explain it clearly during your speech.

Delivery

Make sure that during the delivery, you speak clearly in order for me to hear all of your points and watch rate of delivery. I can't vote on what I don't hear or can't understand. So no spreading.

COOK, TIM

Experience: (ABD)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Policymaker | Res. Issues | Quality | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

Philosophy

My default paradigm is policy maker. I prefer substantive arguments over the resolution. I will accept any argument as long as it is not offensive. I will not tolerate speed. It will definitely result in low speaker points and could result in a loss if I don't flow your argument. Topicality needs to have a real abuse story. Theory, CP and K are fine. If you are reading a K don't assume I familiar with the argument and literature. The K needs to have a pragmatic alt. Make sure speeches are organized and responsive to your opponent's argument. Don't make do a lot of work for you because I won't.

Delivery

I will not tolerate speed. NO SPREADING

ADAMS, CLINT

Experience: (ABCDEJK)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Policymaker | Equal | Equal | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Philosophy

I believe that a round is about the students and arguments in the round and that a round should be evaluated on what is presented and not what I want to see. That being said, you need to link arguments to the topic as well as making them make sense. I don't live debate, which means I don't consume high philosophy, don't assume I know your authors or evidence. If you don't explain it well, I might not know what you are talking about. Additionally, decorum is important in a round. Rudeness will take a toll on your speaker points.

Delivery

Style in delivery is important.

DIMMIG, BRENDEN

Experience: (ABDE)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Offense/Defense | Equal | Equal | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

Philosophy

Absent egregious and institutional issues, please make sure that you are 1.) extending arguments in a warranted manner that are 2.) warranted, while 3.) Making sure that you weigh.

ANTONAKAKIS, ALEXIS

Experience: (ABCDEJK)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Tabula rasa | Res. Issues | Equal | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 |

Philosophy

Give me a clear framework to evaluate the round under, the warranted offense you have to leverage under it, and weigh your offense against your opponent. I am largely a tab judge with some small caveats (see my tabroom paradigm for more detail). I was predominately an LD K debater in high school, but I have 0 problem dropping Ks in favor of framework, policy args, etc. I value quality of arguments over quantity, but that doesn't mean you can't use quantity of arguments in a strategic manner. All teams should collapse. I highly value and will inflate speaks if you do an effective job of collapsing. In general, I really love to see effective use of strategy in the round. Speed is totally fine just be clear. I'll stop flowing if I can't keep up so be mindful. I default policymaker, but am open to whatever alternative mechanism of framing you want to use in the round. I default to competing interps, but am more prone than the average judge to be own over on reasonability. I'm also 100% fine with stock debate, even against more progressive arguments. While I'm tab, I will vote teams down for making offensive arguments or being offensive in the round. If you're rude your speaks will drop very heavily and if it gets past a relative threshold I will drop you.

Delivery

I don't care about styles of speaking. You can be fast just be relatively clear. I don't have much concern for any formalities in the debate round like where you sit and what not. Just make sure you treat everyone with respect.

GIBSON, ANDREW

Experience: (AB)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Tabula rasa | Res. Issues | Quality | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 |

Philosophy

I am a clean slate when it comes to a Debate Round. I believe the debaters should tell me what the round means and if I sign the ballot aff or neg what impacts that has on the world. I am looking for direct clash and not just extending case. This is a communication event especially for UIL so speed and delivery are important. The best round for me requires no intervention and low work so keep us organized and it will be a great round. **The only type of argument I would stay away from with me is the K.** I am not up to date on literature and would probably be the hardest way to my ballot

Delivery

I believe speed should only be used when necessary. Do not drop an argument because you could not get to it but dont spread just to jam the flow in hopes of drop.

CORNISH, ANDREW

Experience: (AB)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Tabula rasa | Res. Issues | Quality | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 |

Philosophy

I am going to default to evaluating who wins the most offense in the round. It's going to be very difficult to get me to vote purely on defense. I am not a stock issues judge. I really, really don't like new arguments in the 2NC. Please don't do it. It's very bad debate strategy in front of me.

Delivery

I would advise you to slow down on tags and theory.

LONG, RONALD

Experience: (ABDE)

| Paradigm | Comm./Res. Issues | Ev. Qty Qual | Qty.Arg | T | CP | DA | Cond. Arg. | Kritiks | 2NC |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|---------|---|----|----|------------|---------|-----|
| Gamer | Equal | Quality | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |

Philosophy

You can run any argument as long as it has a claim, warrant, and impact. Do what you do best. I evaluate arguments by **comparative analysis through offense/defense**. I vote close to how I flow. Strategic extensions and explanations are important. I look for specificity, line-by-line, and warrants. I'm okay voting for any argument under any framework you explicitly put me in. Typically, I evaluate tech over truth. **I like to see a strategic collapsing of arguments**. Theory/T: If you collapse to it, make sure it's flushed out. Disads: should have some disad-case comparison. Counterplans: should have some analysis like on net beneficial or mutual exclusivity, and comparative analysis. Kritiks: Sure, I like them. I may need a short overview in case I'm unfamiliar with the author/literature base. Perms: Be specific. Example: Saying "Perm do both" isn't enough; you probably need some solvency mech explanation like for pik/pic. Affs: Good with any format. If it is performance or a planless/K aff, give me ROB and/or ROJ. Take clear advocacies and contextualize them to the conversation/resolution.

Delivery

Speed is fine. I typically prefer tech over truth. A complete paradigm is on Tabroom.com that is currently down.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING



Tyler Eval

We value your
feedback.
Please complete
conference evaluation
after your last session.



TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

LD: Value or Policy Focus?

Value Focus:

A Core Value, a Value Criterion, Application of the Resolution to the Criterion

There is no presentation of a "plan" or "counterplan"

While supporting evidence is expected, the focus is on clear explanation of the evidence and on persuasion

Policy Focus:

Often called "Progressive" (erroneously in my opinion)

Both affirmative and negative focus on a particular instance of the resolution that they will sometimes call a plan or counterplan

More likely to follow the speed, line-by-line, and heavy evidence focus format of policy debate



KAY, DUSTIN

Experience: (GHA)

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Equal | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |

Philosophy

I lean more traditional, in that framework is an important part of LD. For UIL competition, I do not encourage progressive positions in LD. The structure of these arguments are important and you must signpost well. In general for debate, I am not a fan of spreading. It has always been a "thing" in debate. It was a "thing" when I was a student, it is still a "thing" now. Just because some "thing" is popular does not mean it is a good "thing". If I cannot understand it or catch it, then I cannot flow it. If I cannot flow it, I cannot evaluate it.

ANTONAKAKIS, ALEXIS

Experience: (GHADEF)

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Resolution of Issues | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 |

Philosophy

I'm mostly a tab judge with a few exceptions. If I find a debater to be overly rude or offensive I will vote them down. Aside from that, I judge based on an offense/defense paradigm. Give me a framework to evaluate the round under and then tell me what offense you're winning and why your impacts outweigh your opponent's. I don't care what type of argument you read. I'm fine with stock LD, policy arguments, and especially K debate.

MORROW, CODY

Experience: (GHDEF)

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Resolution of Issues | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Philosophy

I debated a few decades ago when there was only traditional debate. As a result, I am good to go with a value, criteria, and contention style of debate. In college I competed in NDT/CEDA debate and expanded my argument toolbox because I love both policy and Ld. I am an assistant policy coach at the St. Mark's School of Texas. I coach LD & PF at Colleyville Heritage High school. I keep a meticulous flow so most of my decisions will be based on arguments on my flow. Dropped arguments are true arguments. I expect a person to do more than say they dropped my argument extend it I win, this is insufficient. Extend a sentence or two argument that encapsulates the crux of the dropped/conceded argument. If you do that then dropped arguments are true arguments and almost impossible to come back from. No one wins every argument and the debaters in the final rebuttals that can identify an argument their opponents could be winning and then make comparisons and assessments about why your ARGUMENT outweighs/comes first/is happening now and is ongoing etc. I think debaters that use their contentions to bolster their value/criteria debate are being strategic in most instances. If you are a "progressive" debater then you should run the arguments you want to, and I will evaluate the debate the best I can. I don't think anyone needs to spread at this tournament. Speaking quickly or more quickly than conversational is fine with me as long as you are clear. Congratulations on qualifying to the state meet, this is a huge accomplishment! Good Luck!

GACKENBACH, MADI

Experience: (GHA)

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Equal | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

Philosophy

n LD, I've gotten much more progressive, but I tend to still favor traditional. -I do not like Kritiks; they are generic and lazy debating - I will not vote for them. If you can run the same K all year on all the topics, that's a problem. -On case attacks are important! - Theory & CPs good. -Do not read at me while giving voters. -2AR does not necessarily have to be line-by-line. -I understand spreading, but if you become unclear I will say "clear" once, and after that, if you do not clear your speaking, I will stop flowing, more than likely hurting your chances. 7/10 speed please. Slow down on tags please. I do not tolerate rudeness - especially in cx/crossfire. I love seeing passion in rounds, but being passionate about your topic does not mean you get to be rude. Excessive rudeness/terrible attitude results in lowest speaks possible. Include me in on email chains: madison.gackenbach@pisd.edu

HARRISON, CRYSTAL

Experience: ()

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Communication Skills | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

Philosophy

I consider myself a traditional judge in that I weigh the value, criterion, and contention arguments but I also consider this a communication contest and would like your ideas and how they tie to the resolution clearly communicated. Presentation of voters is also highly important. Tell me exactly why you should win today and don't just spend your time arguing with your opponent as **this is at its core a persuasive speaking event.** I prefer debaters to be professional and polite to their opponents while managing to create clash for an engaging round.

HICKEY, JOANNA

Experience: (GHA)

| Comm./Res. Issues | Delivery | Evidence | Appeals | Criteria | Approach |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Equal | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |

Philosophy

I am a little "old school" in that I expect to hear a Value and Criterion from both debaters and clash at that level. I know that aspects of policy debate have spilled over into LD but I am not particularly happy about that. I believe that LD should be distinct from policy. Having said that, I will listen to more progressive arguments. It is important that you give citations for any information that did not originate with you. You need to indicate where evidence ends and analysis begins. The first negative speech should include the negative case but should also contain arguments against the affirmative case. While I understand that analytical arguments are more prevalent in LD, arguments supported by evidence are usually stronger so use evidence to back you up when you can. I am not a fan of spreading ever but especially not in LD. However, I do understand that the 1AR in particular often has to be speedy in order to cover everything. The important thing is that this is still a communication event and I need to be able to understand you in order to evaluate the round effectively.