

# The Basics of Lincoln-Douglas Debate



**You've got this!**

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# Getting familiar with LD debate

- **What is it?**
- **Resources**
- **Format**
  - **Speaker responsibilities**
  - **Case construction**
- **Judging**
- **Flowing**
- **Tips**

# **Lincoln Douglas Debate**

## **“VALUE DEBATE”**

- **1 v. 1**
- **Propositions of VALUE**
- **Multiple resolutions debated**
- **Heavy on Philosophy/Principles**

# **Cross Examination Debate**

## **“POLICY DEBATE”**

- **2 v. 2**
- **Propositions of POLICY**
- **1 resolution debated all year**
- **Heavy on Evidence and THISS**

**What is...**

**THE BEST  
RESOURCE?**

# Activity #1

**Talk Time!**

**Resource #1:**

# Other Coaches/Debaters!!!

*“I'm a very strong believer in listening  
and learning from others.”*

--Ruth Bader Ginsburg

# Professional Organizations and Affiliations

- TSCA [www.etsca.com/](http://www.etsca.com/)
- NSDA [www.speechanddebate.org/](http://www.speechanddebate.org/)
- TFA [www.txfa.org/](http://www.txfa.org/)
- UIL, of course!  
[www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate](http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate)
- **And your district/regional reps  
in these groups**

## **Resource #2:**

# **Learning Ops**

- **Like this UIL Student Activity Conference!**
- **Debate Camp!**
- **Debate Competition!**
- **TSCA Convention sessions on LD Debate (coaches)**



## Resource #3:

# Print/Online

- **UIL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Handbook** [UIL LD Handbook](#)
- **Value Debate Handbook and all of the other great resources from Communican/Baylor Briefs**
- **Big Sky/The Forensic Files/Champion Briefs/Monument Publishing/Debate Central**
- **And so many others!**

# Lincoln-Douglas Debate Format

**6-3-7-3-4-6-3**

**Total of 13 minutes per speaker**

**Total of 6 minutes for CX**

**Total of 4 minutes prep per speaker**

**Total of 40 minutes for the round**

**Affirmative  
has  
the burden  
of proof**

**Negative  
has  
the burden  
of clash**

# Speakers should:

- **Dress professionally.**
- **Be confident.**
- **Be nice.**
- **Face the judge.**

**Enjoy playing the game!**

**6 minutes for 1AC**

**First Affirmative Constructive Speech**

**Good intro with attention-getting device (AGD)**

**States the resolution**

**Defines terms crucial to the debate**

**Gives aff value, criterion, and contentions  
with reasons and evidence**

**3 minutes for CX  
of aff speaker by neg speaker**

**Cross Examination**

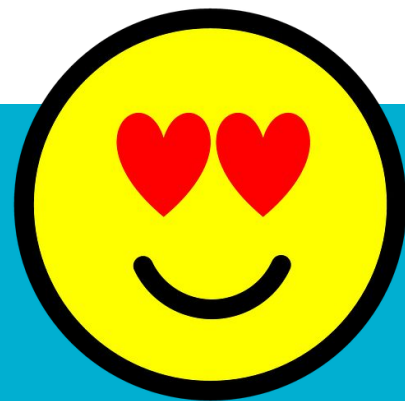
**Neg asks questions**

**Aff answers questions**

**Neg should use this time to clarify his/her  
understanding of aff case  
and to lay the foundation for upcoming  
neg case points**

**REMINDER:**

**FACE THE JUDGE!**



**7 minutes for 1NC**

**First Negative Constructive Speech**

**Good intro with AGD**

**States neg position**

**Re-defines any terms crucial to the debate**

**Gives neg value, criterion, and contentions  
with reasons and evidence**

**\*Attacks aff case (value/criterion/contentions)\***



**3 minutes for CX  
of neg speaker by aff speaker**

**Cross Examination**

**Aff asks questions**

**Neg answers questions**

**Aff should use this time to clarify his/her  
understanding of neg case  
and to lay the foundation for upcoming  
rebuttal speeches in defense of aff case and  
attack on neg case**

# Rebuttal Speeches



**No new ARGUMENTS are allowed!**  
**New EVIDENCE and ANALYSIS are okay!**

**4 minutes for 1AR**

**First Affirmative Rebuttal**

**Refutes neg attacks on aff case**

**Attacks neg case**

**Points out how neg case is not  
as strong as aff case**

**6 minutes for TNR**

## **Negative Rebuttal**

**Refutes aff attacks on neg case**

**Attacks aff arguments**

**Points out how aff has failed to uphold  
their burden of proof**

**Points out how neg case is better**

**Summarizes with voters**

**3 minutes for 2AR**

**Second (Last) Affirmative Rebuttal**

**Refutes neg attacks on aff case**

**Attacks neg arguments**

**Points out how aff has upheld their  
burden of proof**

**Points out how aff case is better**

**Summarizes with voters**

**REMINDER:**

**USE ALL OF YOUR  
PREP TIME!**



# Actual Case Construction

[Lincoln Douglas Debate Case  
Outline.pdf](#)

**What is the “value”?**

**The abstract “ideal”  
that you hold dear**

**Justice**

**Morality**

**Fairness**

**Safety**

**Quality of life**

**National Security**

**Autonomy**



**What is the “criterion”?**

**The standard that  
validates your value**

**The “weighing” standard**

**Philosophies**

**Theories**

**Certain international documents**

# More resources

[Debate Central](#)

[NSDA LD textbook](#)

# Judging LD

***“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”***

**--Benjamin Franklin**

# What is important?

**Communication skills**

**Resolution of substantive issues**

# Preferences

**Rate of delivery--slow v. fast**

**Amount of evidence--little v. lots**

**Appeals--emotional v. factual**

**Use of criteria--unnecessary v. essential**

**Approach to the topic--philosophical v. pragmatic**

# UIL Instructions for Judging LD

[https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/LD\\_Jud\\_Instr.pdf](https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/LD_Jud_Instr.pdf)

**Taking notes during  
the debate**

**“FLOWING”**

# **“FLOWING”**

- 1. Listen!**
- 2. Signpost/share brief off-time roadmaps.**
- 3. Write down major headings and taglines.**
- 4. Don't worry if you miss something the first time--if it is a key point, you should hear it again from the speaker when you ask him/her about it in CX time!**
- 5. Abbreviate/come up with your own shorthand.**
- 6. Figure out the flowing process that works best for you!**



# Sample flowsheet

## From STOA Lincoln Douglas Debate Orientation slideshow

# LD – Flowsheet

Lincoln Douglas Debate Flow Sheet

Affirmative Constructive (AC) 6 minutes	Negative Constructive (NC) 7 minutes	First Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR) 4 minutes	Negative Rebuttal (NR) 6 minutes	Second Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR) 3 minutes
Your notes about the Affirmative Constructive go here.	The Negative's attacks on the affirmative case are written here.	Put notes about the Affirmative's defense of the affirmative case here.	Negative's response to the Affirmative's defense go here.	The Affirmative's summary points and voting issues go here.
	Your notes about the Negative Constructive go here.  (Note: The negative may choose not to present a separate negative case, instead choosing to solely refute the affirmative case.)	The Affirmative's attacks on the negative's case go here.	The Negative's responses to the affirmative's attacks go here, along with summary points/ voting issues.	

Note: There are no columns dedicated for Cross-Examination. Each side is given 3 minutes after the constructives.

## Sample flowsheets

<https://www.ncfca.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/debate-resources/2019LDFlowSheet.pdf>

<https://www.trainingminds.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Lincoln-Douglas-Flowsheets.pdf>

**So many are available online!**

**Monument Publishing has a flowsheet booklet.**

## **A first-year debater's Top Ten Tips:**

- 10. Do impromptu debates over simpler topics, so you can become better at forming arguments.**
- 9. Do class debates on the topic before meets.**
- 8. If someone (a coach, a judge, or an opponent) uses jargon you don't understand, ASK!**

# **First-year debater's Top Ten Tips:**

**7. Make sure you are prepped for at least a week in advance and aren't writing your cases the night before.**

**6. Make sure you really understand the topic and what you are discussing. It's easy for an opponent to attack your arguments if you don't understand what you're discussing.**

# **First-year debater's Top Ten Tips:**

**5. Make sure you are speaking loud and clear even when practicing.**

**4. Pay attention to your posture while presenting and make needed adjustments to your stance (so you aren't slouching, swaying, etc.).**

# **First-year debater's Top Ten Tips:**

**3. Make sure you are maintaining proper eye contact with judges.**

**2. Be willing to step out of your comfort zone to do new things. The only way to grow is by doing.**

**And, most important...**

# First-year debater's Top Ten Tips:

## 1. HAVE FUN!

Whether you win or lose, it is most important that you have a good, “learnable” experience.



## **Bibliography of sources not previously cited/linked:**

Cheshier, David M. "25 Tips for Taking a Better Flowsheet." The Rostrum--NFL. Nov. 2000. Web. N.D.

"Lincoln-Douglas Debate Format." Classical Rhetoric and Modern Political Discourse--MIT. Fall 2009. Web. 14 May 2012.





# Activity #2

**Talk Time!**  
**Q & A**