

Judging Dialectic Spar (DS)

This new and timely debate format was created because our business leaders are interested in employees with more than just debate skills and our politicians are stuck in polarized, partisan debates without end. Tomorrow's political leaders and work force will need to be comprised of problem solvers, able to compromise and negotiate to get to an agreement. Traditional debate typically does not allow us to budge from our positions. Rather than remaining committed to the polarized opposites of an issue, DS allows each competitor to also be evaluated on their abilities to negotiate, concede, and compromise in order to come to a workable agreement.

Students will be evaluated on the following skills...

Presentation

Persuasion

Reasoning

Recall & Evaluation

Problem Solving

Respect.

... over for more Judging Guidelines for DS



BEGINNING THE DS ROUND

1. Call roll
2. Ask for a volunteer to time
3. Call up first two competitors - don't wait for double entries to arrive in the room.
4. Give the competitors a blank note card supplied in your envelope.
5. Flip a coin to determine AFF and NEG
6. Present one slip of paper with the 3 resolution choices to the debaters. PRO crosses out one topic, then CON crosses out another. The remaining topic is the one the debaters will use. Allow the debaters to keep the slip of paper.
7. Timer starts prep time immediately

If there is an odd number of students in the round, one student will debate a second time, HOWEVER, the student will be evaluated only on his/her first debate.

STRUCTURE & TIME SIGNALS for DS: Accurate time signals are important to the competitors. If your room hasn't been assigned a timer, choose a student competitor to sit next to you to give hand-signals to the debaters at 1 minute, ½ minute, and ten seconds.

1. **2 minutes - Silent Preparation**
2. **2 minutes - Position Speech AFF**
3. **2 minutes - Position Speech NEG**
4. **3 minutes - Cross Ex & Questioning, AFF & NEG.**

A cross-fire discussion with both competitors begins with questions focused on clarifying each other's position on the topic, clarifying common goals and establishing potential compromise areas. The "discussion" should be respectful and productive versus non-bending and polarized. (The two debaters may take questions from other student competitors in the audience, as well.)

5. **2 minutes - Proposal Preparation/Negotiation, AFF & NEG**

Both competitors sit across from each other to discuss issues and points with each other as they prepare their final proposals and statements.

6. **2 minutes - Closing Proposal Speech AFF**
7. **2 minutes - Closing Proposal Speech NEG**

REMEMBER JUDGES: In DS, is not your job to decide who won the debate. You will have to see ALL the debates in order to decide how to rank the individuals in the room from 1st – 5th place. If 6 students compete, there will be two ranked in 5th place.

You can see that each DS debate will run 15 minutes. Keep the round moving and rank the competitors at the end after you have excused the debaters. Immediately bring the ballots to the Judges' Room for check in; after that, you can take your time to write constructive feedback on the individual student ballots.