

# **Greater St. Louis Speech League Preseason Tournament Judging Guide**

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Ladue High School

Welcome and thank you for judging for us this weekend. Our participating schools – coaches and students – are entirely grateful for your service. This guide is intended to walk you through the process of judging today, from start to finish. If you have further questions, please let a tournament official know and we will help you!

## **Ballot Pick-Up**

First, please arrive about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for your round. You may find that you need to wait a bit upon arrival but your punctuality will help us keep the tournament running on time. Here is the schedule:

Round 1: 8:30am

Round 2: 10:00

Round 3: 12:00pm

Round 4: 2:30

Round 5: 4:00

Next, when you arrive, come to the judge check in table. We will be near the main entrance and clearly labeled. Let us know your name and what school you are judging for and we will give you your judging assignment. At this tournament there are only three events you might judge:

## **Extemporaneous Debate**

The one-on-one debate format will address a topic that changes each round. Topics will be announced **30 minutes prior to the start of each round**. Students may use any research or prewritten information developed in the 30 minutes of preparation time. You will see two or three debates within the span of one round. You will make a decision for a winner at the completion of each individual debate. **Times are as follows:**

Affirmative Constructive – 2 minutes

CX – 1 minute

Negative Constructive – 2 minutes

CX – 1 minute

MANDATORY PREP TIME – 1 minute

Affirmative Rebuttal – 2 minutes

Negative Rebuttal – 2 minutes

MANDATORY PREP TIME – 1 minute

Affirmative Conclusion – 2 minutes

Negative Conclusion – 2 minutes

## **Impromptu Speaking**

The Impromptu speech should be regarded as an original interpretation by the speaker of the designated topic as supported by common knowledge examples, while giving a contestant the opportunity to be creative and imaginative. Students will draw their topic IN THE ROOM with the judge. Each student will have **5 MINUTES to prepare** their speech followed by **5 MINUTES to present** their speech. After watching all performances the judge will rank them from first to last without any ties.

## **Duet Improvisation**

Two students will perform a scene that centers on the topic or object selected 30 minutes prior to their performance. The scene should have a convincing beginning, middle, and end as well as an introduction. The scene may be no longer than **7 minutes**. Students will be allowed the use of one table and two chairs for their scene. After watching all performances the judge will rank them from first to last without any ties.

### During the Round

First, if you need assistance to locate your room (which will be labeled on your ballots) simply ask a tournament manager. When you arrive in your room please wait for your competitors. Once competitors have arrived for your first flight of Extemp Debate or your first performer in Impromptu or Duet Improv you may begin. At the completion of the first flight of debate or the first performer, you may excuse your competitor. Please wait for the next debaters or performers to arrive. If ever you are waiting more than 15 minutes for the next set of debaters or performers, please check with a tournament manager.

Second, while the performance is happening please feel free to take notes both for yourself and on the ballot. Students will appreciate both encouraging and constructive feedback about their performances. This will help them improve. Please use the ballot for this feedback. Discussing your thoughts with the competitor both ruins the competitive surprise of the tournament and can put the schedule behind.

Finally, at the completion of the round you will make your decision. There are evaluative criteria listed on each ballot to help guide your choice. However, remember that ultimately you can use any means of deciding and you will be correct. Trust your instinct! To make a choice in Extemp Debate, you will select a winner by marking the competitor you select. To make a choice in Impromptu and Duet Improv you will fill out an individual ballot for each competitor and put their rank on their ballot as well as the cover sheet.

### Returning the Ballot

When you are done making your decision you will bring your ballots back to the table where you received them. We will double check to make sure you filled them out correctly before you leave. Of course, at any point during this process you are welcome to come to our hospitality lounge to indulge in some delicious, free food. If you are remaining for another round you can pick your next ballot at the same location.

Thank you so much for your time today. If you have any questions or concerns (or even suggestions) along the way we would love to hear them and help you out! Without your service these events would not be possible. We hope to see you again! There are still three GSL tournaments this season and you are warmly invited.

Thank you!

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