

PREPARING FOR A TOURNAMENT

Appear confident. Don't talk too fast. Try not to be nervous. don't worry before the round, "What if I can't think of good things to say? What if I can't think of anything good to say? What if I'm not in the zone and my brain is not in debate mode?" Thinking these things literally makes things worse because you panic and then your brain **isn't** in the debate mode because you're panicking! Rather, in my experience, you need to be calm and focused.

You are new, so your first few rounds you may not have much to say. You might not have good ideas, but that's OK. Just try your best.

-6 rounds, 3 aff, 3 neg. 4 wins needed to break. I do not expect you to break. You are first years, and 90% of first years do not break. If you only win one or two rounds, that is normal and that is fine.

What to prepare: Preflow your case.

What to bring: Flowbook, pens, drink, binder with cases, cx, rebuttal sheets, etc.

Finding your round: Look at the postings. Sheet of paper that tells you who you are debating, when, and which room.

Nobody will come get you to let you know that you need to go to your room. You need to keep track of the schedule and know when the next round is supposed to start. You are responsible for checking the postings and going to your room on time without anyone saying anything to you. But you can usually tell when postings go up, because as soon as they tape it on the wall, there is a huge flock of people that gathers around it. So if you see a huge group of people flocking around and staring at the wall, that's probably the postings and you need to go check RIGHT NOW.

For each round, there is flight A and flight B. So the round is actually split in half. You will only be in one flight in each round. Flight A debates first, then flight B. So if you are flight B in the 12:00 round, your round probably doesn't actually start until 12:45 (after the flight A round finishes).

Get to your room on time, even before. If you are late, the judge will get impatient. If you are REALLY late, they sometimes consider it a forfeit, and the opponent wins automatically.

If your opponent is "bye", that means you got a bye. What does that mean? Well, think about what happens if there is an odd number of debaters at a tournament. One debater is not going to have an opponent, right? If you get a "bye", that means there are an odd # of debaters, and you were the odd debater out, so there is nobody left for you to debate this round. So you don't have to debate, you automatically win the round.

Timing rounds

LDers sometimes have to time each other.

Put your hand down upon eye contact or head nodding. it's ok to wave your arm around if it's been a really long time and they haven't seen it. But don't go too crazy.

If you are speaking, keep an eye out for the timer – look up once in a while. Make eye contact with them so they can put their hand down. Nod at them if they still don't put their hand down.

If you are Negative, you have to time the other flight in your round. Meaning: If you are Negative flight A, you have to stay in your room after your round is over and time the flight B round. If you are Negative flight B, you have to go to your room early and time the flight A round, then stay and debate in your flight B round.

They will have this sheet at the "Timer Table." You can get one each time you have to time if you want to. Use the sheet to keep track of everything.

Don't put the timer back after the round. It stays in the room.

Before the Round Starts:

Get yourself all set up. Aff sits on judge's left, Neg sits on judge's right.

Then, wait until everyone looks ready to start. Usually, the judge will look up at both of you, the timer will look up at both of you, then the opponents look at each other and nod (an unspoken "I'm ready if you are").

Once everyone is ready, get up. Each debater needs to shake judge's hand and say, "Hi I'm ___ and I'll be your affirmative/negative speaker, thank you for judging." Let the Aff shake hands first.

Offer to write in your name on ballot, unless you notice it is already there.

Then, Aff shakes the timer's hand, say "thank you for timing" (you don't need to say your name, they don't care). (Meanwhile, while Aff shakes timer's hand, Neg shakes judge's hand).

Neg shakes timer's hand while Aff waits.

Shake your opponent's hand and say "Good luck."

Then the round begins.

During the Round:

Before each speech, ask "is the judge ready? And the timer? And my opponent?"

Delivery:

You are not having a casual conversation with your friend. Act like you are up at a podium speaking to an audience on television. Act like you are like the president of the united states. Speak with authority. Speak LOUDLY and SLOWLY.

Be respectful towards your opponent, watch attitude and facial expressions

Finally, no matter how bad things seem during round, don't panic or appear distressed. Keep calm and confident. don't ever tell judge you lost. you'd be surprised – my sister's friend fell asleep during a round and though she lost and she won. I blew a whole entire

round and won. You never know, so don't appear as if you lost, because judge may not realize that you are doing bad.

End of Round:

Clap at end of round and smile. Shake judge's hand, say "Thank you for judging." Shake timer's hand, say "Thank you for timing." Shake opponents hand, say "Good job."

Be loud and confident even when saying "thank you for judging."

Don't talk about the round until the judge leaves the room and is out of earshot. (If you tell your opponent "You did great!" and the judge hears you, you might lose. I almost learned this the hard way).