

Score	Description	Argumentation	Refutation	Structure	Presentation
59 and lower	<p>59 should be reserved for students who are unsuccessful as debaters as well as otherwise uncooperative, mean-spirited, or disruptive during a debate. This is a <u>most unusual</u> circumstance. Lower points often exclude debaters from awards. If a judge gives a student a score points lower than 60, she/he is indicating that a debater, based on this one performance, should be ineligible for any individual or team tournament award.</p>				
60-64	<p>Below average for an experienced debater. This score may be slightly below average for a new or anxious speaker. Lower markings of this sort simply indicate that a student has yet to master any of the core elements of public speaking and argumentation. A lower score does not indicate a 'failure' on the students' part. It simply reveals skill-level based on a single debate.</p>	<p>Does not use the A-R-E (assertion – reasoning – evidence) format for an argument. Offers assertions with little analysis or negligible reasoning. There is little or no evidence to support argumentation. The speaker has likely copied arguments from other sources or teammates but does not understand the issues. The speaker is unlikely to amplify the arguments of partners.</p>	<p>This speaker is unlikely to reply to the overwhelmingly majority of major points from the other side. This speaker is likely to repeat her/his own arguments without expanding to them or comparing them to the arguments from the opposing side. The result is that there is little 'clash' in the debate. The speaker is likely to either accept or reject <i>all</i> POIs.</p>	<p>Disorganized. Does not have a narrative structure to the speech (introduction – body – conclusion). Arguments are not clearly distinguished from one to another. The speaker does not reply to opposing issues in an orderly manner. It is difficult to flow the speech, due to the lack of organization. The speaker is not using the full amount of allotted speaking time.</p>	<p>The speaker is distracted, anxious, and halting in delivery. There is little eye contact – use of notes inhibits establishing a connection with the judge. The speaker mumbles or has numerous vocal pauses ('umm,' 'you know,' 'whatever.'). The person disrupts the effectiveness of partners' speeches (interruptions, excessive passing of notes.)</p>
65-69	<p>This is a below average performance for an experienced debater but may be a more common 'average' score for beginning debaters. In general, the speaker is modestly successful in one major performance element (public speaking, organization, argumentation, refutation, interactive elements such as POIs and heckling, etc.) but is ineffective or unsuccessful in other major elements.</p>	<p>Does not generally use the A-R-E format, although there may be an exception for one or two arguments. Little evidence – contemporary and historical examples, statistical information, expert testimony – is used by the speaker. The speaker is likely to have inconsistencies, logic gaps, or one or more fallacies in major arguments. Little integration of issues from teammates.</p>	<p>This speaker is not able to clash with or reply to the majority of arguments from the opposing side. This debater is more apt to repeat previous ideas rather than develop, analyze, or compare them. The speaker does not use advanced refutation techniques, for example, evaluating opportunity costs and opponents' underlying assumptions.</p>	<p>There is little organization to the full speech, although one or more individual points may be appropriately organized. The speaker does not have an attention-getting introduction nor a powerful conclusion. The speaker is difficult to follow for a significant amount of time. The speaker is not clear when moving from one to point to another. May use full speaking time, but does not effectively allocate time to key issues.</p>	<p>The speaker loses clarity for sustained periods. There is poor eye contact and infrequent use of gestures. The speaker does not sound confident or convincing. The speaker rarely attempts a POI; the speaker is distracted by POIs from the opposing team. The speaker does not work effectively with teammates or participate in positive or negative heckling.</p>
70-74	<p>This is a near average performance for an experienced debater and an average or slightly above average performance for a new debater. The speaker is inconsistent – some speech elements are done well and others are unsuccessful.</p>	<p>The speaker clearly understands argumentation but only occasionally uses A-R-E. The speaker is also likely to confuse reasoning and evidence, offering only one of the elements rather than both.</p>	<p>The speaker is more likely to discuss her/his own arguments than answer an opponent's arguments in a direct and forceful way, although there is some refutation of limited effectiveness.</p>	<p>The speaker has a basic structure (introduction, body, conclusion) but strays from it during the presentation. The speaker is likely to be able to organize her/his own arguments but loses structure when trying to address opponent's points. The speaker gets distracted or slows the pace too much when confronted with POIs/heckles.</p>	<p>Speaks clearly but there are noticeable pronunciation and other verbal errors that are sufficiently distracting for the audience or disrupt the natural flow of the speech. The speaker makes POIs but they are generally obvious questions, not tactical arguments.</p>

Score	Description	Argumentation	Refutation	Structure	Presentation
75-79	This is an average and slightly above average performance. The speaker is competent and does some things well but is just as likely to make significant errors.	The speaker follows the A-R-E model consistently, although some assertions do not have sufficient reasoning and many do not have genuine evidence. It is more likely that the speaker repeats reasoning as evidence. The speaker competently identifies obvious major issues but does not develop nuanced or complex issues.	The speaker understands own positions but spends too much time repeating those ideas rather than developing or amplifying them. Unlikely to establish the qualitative (matter of degree) and quantitative (number affected) significance of issues. Unlikely to compare opposing views. Uses direct refutation well but offers little advanced refutation.	Organized and generally effective. Attempts a narrative structure but is not able to consistently adhere to it at one or two points of the speech. Loses some clarity integrating opposing arguments. Good use of time.	Speaks in a clear, comprehensible way. There is consistent nonverbal communication (eye contact and gestures). The speaking style is competent but not confident. Speaks in a monotone rather than with a dramatic tone. Attempts 1-2 POIs and gives reasonable but unspectacular answers to POIs when holding the floor.
80-84	This is a solid, above average performance. This is a good debate speech. The speaker appears to be comfortable with the format, eager to participate, and reasonably confident.	The speaker is able to make effective arguments throughout the speech, Using the A-R-E format, the speaker consistently applies reasoning and, more often than not, also presents evidence to support issues. The debater appears prepared to discuss the important issues of the debate. The speaker uses argumentative POIs and heckles, although does not do this more than once or twice.	The speaker maintains her/his own or team's positions, supplementing them with thoughtful analysis and examples. The speaker has more difficulty with the opposing team's arguments but is able to effectively reply to some of the major points of the other side. The speaker uses only direct refutation (simple disagreement) but does so consistently and effectively.	Simple, effective narrative structure for own arguments but has some difficulty integrating multiple counter-positions into speech. Uses speaking time effectively – uses the full amount of time and allocates time to the important issues.	Speaks in an engaging manner – clear but only occasionally entertaining and persuasive. Demonstrates some confidence and credibility. POIs offered concisely with clear relevance to the round. There are occasional verbal pauses (“ummm...”) but they are not a distraction. May be an ineffective communicator at 1 or 2 important times during the speech.
85-89	This is a fine speech from a consistently strong debater delivering a well above average speech. Confident and capable – an effective model for new debaters.	The speaker is able to establish a clear position that demands a sophisticated reply. Uses A-R-E with highly effective reasoning and consistent application of different varieties of evidence.	Able to refute arguments directly and uses many advanced refutation techniques, including evaluation of opportunity costs and turn/capture of opposing side's position. Can effectively minimize the importance of an opponents' arguments.	Logical organization, which is easy to follow and flow. May have either an effective intro or conclusion but unlikely to have both. Able to organize own positions and opponents' into a well-integrated speech.	An animated speaker able to present a clear and convincing case. Persuasive and credible. Strong POIs and replies to POIs. Infrequently distracted by the other team. Strong public speaker in all but one respect.
90-94	Near brilliant. This is an outstanding debater delivering a highly successful speech.	Not only is the speaker able to make powerful arguments, but the speaker is able to do so on-the-spot. The issues are detailed, and complex, with substantial evidence to support sound reasoning.	Understands how arguments interrelate. The speaker investigates inconsistencies among opponents' claims. Identifies and exploits opportunity costs and underlying and hidden assumptions.	Strong narrative structure. Persuasive introduction and conclusion. Speech is sophisticated and yet, easy to follow and understand. Seamlessly integrates arguments from both sides in one compelling presentation.	A persuasive presentation that effectively uses rhetorical devices like humor, effective pausing and vocal inflection to add depth to the speech. Consistent POI attempts and excellent POI argumentation. Effective argumentative heckling.
95 and higher	A near flawless performance. It is difficult to identify any error of omission or commission. A 98-100 is <u>flawless</u> – a combination of Winston Churchill, Barbara Jordan, and Denzel Washington. It is highly unlikely that there will even be one speech of this ranking in several years.	Sophisticated understanding of issues and opponent strategies. Develops arguments with multiple causes and diverse consequences. Creates clever impromptu arguments. Uses different types of evidence and introduces more evidence as the debate develops.	Regularly integrates advanced refutation into argumentation, using ideas from opponents to advance the speaker's own side. Uses POIs and heckling as opportunities for powerful refutation. Accounts for or has an outstanding reply to every important point made by the other side.	Uses a stable and highly persuasive narrative speech structure. Despite argument complexity, the speech can be followed by nearly any judge. Speaker is capable of restoring order to even a confused debate round.	Has exceptional knowledge about the subject and is very involved in all elements of the debate. Outstanding verbal and nonverbal skills, including eye contact, volume, pace, clarity, and humor. Speech would make an ideal demonstration for peers.