

## 12. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

PURPOSE: A debate event designed to engage the audience through a policy-oriented dialogue.

DESCRIPTION: NFA Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a one-person, persuasive, policy debate. It is a communication event, in which competitors will be evaluated on their analysis, use of evidence, and ability to effectively and persuasively organize, deliver and refute arguments.

### RULES:

1. Recommended paradigm for Judging Lincoln-Douglas Debate – While the official decision making paradigm of NFA-LD is that of Stock Issues: Harm (Advantage or Goals), Inherency, Solvency, and Topicality, judges are also encouraged to develop a decision-making paradigm for adjudicating competitive debate and provide that paradigm to students prior to the debate. Under the stock issues paradigm: The affirmative is required to propose a plan that meets four initial burdens. The plan need not be detailed, but should be sufficient to prove the plan's propensity to solve the problem area.
2. The affirmative must prove:
  - a). The harm of the present system or that a comparative advantage or goal can be achieved over the present system;
  - b). The inherency which prevents solving those harms or achieving those advantages or goals;
  - c). The proposed plan's propensity to solve the harm or achieve the advantage or goal claimed by the affirmative; and
  - d). The topical nature of the proposed plan as an inductive proof of the resolution. If, at the end of the debate, the negative has convinced the judge that the affirmative proposal has violated the parameters set by the resolution, then the decision in the debate should be awarded to the negative. However, the plan does not need to deal with all the possible problem areas suggested by the resolution. Topicality is a voting issue.
3. The negative may attack any of these issues, but need only win one to win the debate.  
Additionally, the negative may argue that one or more disadvantages to the proposed plan outweigh its benefits. The negative may also present one competitive counterproposal specific to the affirmative problem area and not dealing with the form of government, economic system, or need for further study (unless specifically identified as a key issue in the resolution).
4. Counterproposals should be logically consistent with all other negative arguments constructed during the debate. If inconsistencies arise and the affirmative points them out, the judge should reject the arguments inconsistent with the counterproposal. Counterproposals are subject to the same burden of solvency as are required of affirmative plans.
5. Rebuttals are to be used to respond to the opposition's lines of argument and to extend arguments made in constructive speeches. No new lines of argument may be presented in rebuttals. By new lines of argument, we mean those which are not clarifications or responses made to arguments made in constructive, but those which are completely new and unrelated to previous argumentation. New evidence to extend or clarify constructive arguments is permitted in rebuttal.
6. Since LD debate adheres to the communication principles of individual events, judges are encouraged to give a verbal warning to debaters speaking too rapidly in a round. If the speaker does not heed the warning in that particular round, the judge is strongly encouraged to give that speaker a loss for that round even if the student has otherwise "won" the debate on the basis of the stock issues.
  - a. Use of Evidence in Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Students are required to use accurate and directly quoted evidence with proper respect to the context of the original source. Debaters are required to make available to their opponent and judges copies of any evidence used in the round for the duration of the debate. At the conclusion of the debate, judges may review evidence in the round

and competitors are required to provide the evidence and source citation upon the request of judges.

- b. Violations of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures: If a debater, during the course of the debate, charges his/her opponent with violating a standard or rule, as established by the National Forensics Association Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures, the debate shall immediately cease. The judge will bring the students to a member of the tournament committee and the debater making the charge will fill out a formal complaint according to the provisions under(1) in the section “Violation of the Code of Standards.” The complaint will then be adjudicated as in any other complaint. If the debater making the charge during the round refuses to file a formal complaint, that debater will receive a loss for the debate. Complaints made after a round will follow the standard procedure listed in the “violation” section of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Electronic devices may be used in the round (e.g. cell phones as timers, laptops with evidence or for notes), but competitors must agree to NOT communicate with anyone else, either inside or outside the room, during the course of the debate via their electronic devices.
- d. Time Limits for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minute
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep time per debater	4 minutes

B. The following rules apply to all events:

- 1. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 1, preceding the National Championship Tournament.
- 2. No student may perform two cuttings from the same literary work at the National Championship tournament in the same year.
- 3. All students will be granted reasonable accommodations at the NFA National Championship tournament, including but not limited to wheelchair accessible rooms, the opportunity to use a notetaker, extended preparation time, and the provision of an ASL interpreter. Accommodations requests shall be privately submitted to the National Tournament Director and will not be released publicly. Regional tournament directors are strongly encouraged to follow the same procedure.

C. Novice Finals at the National Championship Tournament:

- 1. Novice is defined as a student who is in their very first year of forensic competition. This includes high school and collegiate experience.
- 2. Students must be designated by their coaches, during the registration process, to be eligible for these elimination rounds.

D. Experimental event at the National Championship Tournament:

- 1. All proposals for any experimental event at the National Championship Tournament must be submitted for consideration to the National Council by April 1. Proposals must include event name, rules, rationale, and names and affiliations of authors.
- 2. The National Council will select worthy proposals to submit to the Student Assembly at the National Championship Tournament.

3. The Student Assembly, if it chooses to do so, will pick from National Council submissions an Experimental Event for implementation at the following year's National Championship Tournament.
  - a). A maximum of one (1) experimental event may be implemented in any tournament year.
  - b). The experimental events will not be part of sweepstakes or pentathlon at the National Championship Tournament.
  - c). Other appropriate elements of the association's Constitution, By-laws, and Code of Standards, will apply to the experimental event. An implemented experimental event cannot be added to the slate of regular events unless it constitutionally replaces another event.
  - d). Execution of the experimental event is contingent upon available space.