

## NSDA 2020 - WS Debate Judge Training Quiz

### Question 1:

What are the burdens of sides Proposition and Opposition?

### Question 2:

What are the three criteria used to evaluate a WS Debate round and how should those criteria be weighed?

### Question 3:

What is the appropriate point range for the six constructive (substantive) speeches?

### Question 4:

What is the appropriate point range for the two reply speeches?

### Question 5:

Is evidence required in WS Debate? Should judges expect to hear "cards" read or listen for sources?

### Question 6:

How important is delivery? At what speed should debaters present their speeches?

### Question 7:

Can either side win with one example as an exception to a general rule?

### Question 8:

Can a speaker/side drop an argument and still win the round?

### Question 9:

Are models required by the Prop? Are counter-models allowed on the Opp?

### Question 10:

Are definitions required? Can definitions be challenged?

### Question 11:

How many POIs should a speaker take? How often can the other side offer POIs during a speech?

### Question 12:

Can 3rd speakers introduce new arguments? What about Reply speakers?

### Question 13:

How is the role of the judge different in WS Debate than in other debate formats?

### Question 14:

What should the judge do if material presented by one team is flawed/argued poorly, but the other team does not point this out or answer it?

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### Answer 1:

The burdens on Prop and Opp are essentially equal. The proposition must prove that the motion is true as a general principle and/or in the majority of the circumstances. The Opposition must cast more than just a reasonable doubt; it must prove that the motion is not true as a general principle and/or in the majority of circumstances.

**Answer 2:**

Content - 40%, Style - 40%, Strategy - 20%

**Answer 3:**

Speaker points should fall into a range of 65-75 points. Think of substantive speeches rotating off an average of 70 points, adjusting up for a stronger speech, and down for a weaker speech.

*\*\*For purposes of the Online NSDA Nationals in 2020, Tabroom settings will be set for a minimum of 65 points and a maximum of 75 points to reduce extreme variation in judge feedback in an absence of formal training.*

75 - Outstanding  
73-74 - Very Good  
71-72 - Good  
70 - Average  
68-69 - Inconsistent  
66-67 - Below Average  
65 - Poor

**Answer 4:**

Speaker points should fall into a range of 32-38 points, rotating off 35 points as an average.

*\*\*For purposes of the Online NSDA Nationals in 2020, Tabroom settings will be set for a minimum of 32 points and a maximum of 38 points to reduce extreme variation in judge feedback in an absence of formal training.*

38 - Outstanding  
37 - Very Good  
36 - Good  
35 - Average  
34 - Inconsistent  
33 - Below Average  
32 - Poor

**Answer 5:**

WS Debate uses logical and persuasive appeals geared toward the lay person. While argument structure (claim, warrant, impact) is recommended and research occurs prior to case construction, debaters will use examples and other modes of persuasion in round to make their points. WS Debate stresses analysis over listing and/or reading the examples/evidence or pointing to the credibility of sources. There is no evidence challenge in WS Debate nor do judges look at evidence after the round.

**Answer 6:**

Style is 40% of the criteria for evaluating a speaker. Delivery should be persuasive in tone and extemporaneous in delivery. Speed should be at a conversational pace and easy to understand and flow. Speeches that are too fast should receive lower points in the Style category.

**Answer 7:**

No, WS Debate requires each side to prove their case holistically; even in motions using an absolute (“all,” “always,” “never,”) it is NOT enough to prove a single exception.

**Answer 8:**

Yes. Arguments may be discarded in the round as later speakers focus on the issues emerging as more important.

**Answer 9:**

Prop may offer a model (an illustration) of what the Prop world would look like, but is not required to. Models are not plans with specific action steps required. Opposition may offer a counter-model to show what the Opp world looks like, but this is not required or common. A good model clarifies the debate and offers balanced ground.

**Answer 10:**

Depending on the motion, definitions may be helpful in clarifying the debate and should be offered in the Prop 1 speech. They should be reasonable, obvious, and fair. IF the Opp wants to challenge a definition, it should occur in Opp 1. Time and place setting by either side and “squirreling” the motion are not allowed and should be reflected by a points deduction in the Strategy category. The main criteria for definitions is that they be clear, reasonable, fair, and promote balanced debate.

**Answer 11:**

The international norm for accepting POIs is two per speech. Less is seen as avoiding engagement while taking more as viewed as less strategic. The other side can offer POIs every 20 seconds or so as long as there are not any offered during the protected first or last minute. A team should NOT be penalized for offering frequent POIs as that is what they are supposed to be doing.

**Answer 12:**

All substantive arguments should be introduced in the first two speeches of each side. While new WARRANTS can be made in the 3rd speech and/or new examples used, no new claims should be introduced at this point. No new material should be offered in Reply speeches and it should be disregarded by the judge if it happens.

**Answer 13:**

Besides adjudicating the round and keeping the official time, a WS judge also serves as a chairperson for the round, calling the different speakers to speak and timing the round. The judge as chair can say: The Chair calls the first speaker for the Proposition; the Chair thanks the speaker for those remarks; the Chair now calls the first speaker for side Opposition, etc. At NSDA Online Nationals, the judges will NOT disclose the decision after the round or make comments in order to make sure everyone can keep up with the schedule. It IS an expectation that thoughtful comments will be typed on the Tabroom ballots.

**Answer 14:**

WS debates are geared to the average, intelligent judge and should be conversational in nature. Judges should NOT use their own expertise, experiences, or biases to interpret material or motions. It is up to the students in the round to argue the merits of the motion, not the judge. No team should be disadvantaged because they were scheduled on a particular side of the motion. The judge should separate what they **wanted** to hear in the round from what actually occurred.