

Addendum 2025.2.1 Core Values and Conduct

Appropriateness of Material

Sensitive Topics

Sensitive topics are permitted but must be addressed appropriately at ASDA competitions. Sensitive topics are those topics that include or require research or discussion of events hypothetical or actual that are disturbing or emotional, but not necessarily ruled out by the mature topics rule. Sensitive topics may be presented in a speech event only after inviting young competitors or children to leave the room. Presentation of content that a reasonable person would find to be overly graphic or disturbing to an audience of younger varsity competitors is not permitted in debate events.

Addendum 2025.3.1 Safety

Adult Representative

When a parent is not available to serve as the Adult Representative, they may designate a different chaperone by filling out a release waiver that is signed by both the parent and the new designated adult **and** they must recruit one or more additional adults willing to judge more than half the rounds at the tournament. Coaches or other adults may serve as the designated adult representative for a maximum of four students. Designated Adult Representatives must be aware who they represent. This is recorded by their signature on the release waiver form.

Only a parent or Legal Guardian may be the designated Adult Representative for Junior competitors. They may not delegate that responsibility.

The parent or designated Adult Representative must stay at the ASDA tournament or event when their competitor is at the tournament or event. If the Adult Representative leaves without their competitor, even if just to wait in their car, the competitor will be at risk of disqualification. Competitors will not be allowed to participate without a designated adult representative onsite the entire time the student is at the ASDA tournament or event.

Addendum 2025.7.1 Tournaments

Judge Training

Judges should watch the following training videos before entering a round to judge. They may watch these videos at any time during the season prior to the round being judged.

Speech Training video https://youtu.be/WYy6MTI_8Oc (12:19)

Debate Training video <https://youtu.be/gj17tEUmiOU> (10:58)

Addendum 2025.8.1 Competition Speech Events

General Speech Rules

14. Competitor must stand to deliver their speech unless physically unable to do so (even in online events).
15. Use of AI in limited prep speech events is prohibited.

Belief & Values Limited Prep Rules

10. Competitor must show card to the judges before speaking
11. Notecard must be in view during the speech
12. Competitor may not read from a screen, paper, or other script. The only thing they may reference during the speech is the notecard
13. Camera must remain on during the preparation period for online tournaments.

Extemporaneous Limited Prep Rules

7. In online tournaments, competitor must leave their camera on so they can be seen by the prep room host
8. Competitor must show card to the judges before speaking
9. Notecard must be in view during the speech
10. Competitor may not read from a screen, paper, or other script. The only thing they may reference during the speech is the notecard

Impromptu Speaking Rules

8. Competitor may not read from a screen, paper, or other script. The only thing they may reference during the speech is the topic card.
9. Camera must remain on during the preparation period for online tournaments.

Open Interpretation Rules

12. Other than the 150 original words in the introduction and conclusion, all other words in the speech must come from the self-authored or published source for the speech.

Addendum 2025.9.1 Competition Debate Events

General Debate Instructions

The ASDA Debate Expectations should be read aloud at the beginning of every debate round. See Addendum 2025.2 ASDA Debate Instructions.

During in person tournaments, debaters are prohibited from using an electronic device (laptop, tablet, phone, watch, etc) during a debate round (with the exception of using phone as a timer). All competitors are expected to come prepared with their materials printed. Likewise, in online tournaments, competitors are prohibited from accessing the internet during a debate round. All competitors are expected to come prepared with their materials pre-formatted and printed twice for sharing.

Lincoln-Douglas Speeches

3. Rebuttals: In these speeches, the debaters respond to arguments made in constructive speeches and strengthen their claims in the round. In the final Affirmative Rebuttal of the round, debaters may not introduce new arguments into the round. If new arguments are introduced in the final affirmative rebuttal speech, the judge should disregard these arguments when making their final decision.

Lincoln-Douglas Timing

Debaters will start and end their own preparation timer and report used and remaining times to the judge before speaking. Competitors should have their timers counting down during preparation time.

Lincoln-Douglas Communication with Opponent(s) or Judge(s)

Debaters may ask for their opponent's evidence or 1AC during cross-examination or preparation time. If such a request is made, a physical copy of the evidence read in the round complying with the written standards should be supplied to the opposing debater.

Debaters should face the judges while speaking, including during cross-examinations.

Debaters are prohibited from giving a judge their constructive speech or any other evidence.

Team Policy Speeches

3. Rebuttals: In these speeches, the debaters respond to arguments made in constructive speeches and strengthen their claims in the round. In the final Affirmative Rebuttal of the round, debaters may not introduce new arguments into the round. If new arguments are introduced in the final

affirmative rebuttal speech, the judge should disregard these arguments when making their final decision.

Team Policy Debate Timing

Debaters will start and end their own preparation timer and report used and remaining times to the judge before speaking. Competitors should have their timers counting down during preparation time.

Team Policy Debate Communication with Opponent(s) or Judge(s)

Debaters may ask for their opponent's evidence or 1AC during cross-examination or preparation time. If such a request is made, a physical copy of the evidence read in the round complying with the written standards should be supplied to the opposing debater.

Debaters should face the judges while speaking, including during cross-examinations.

Debaters are prohibited from giving a judge their 1AC or any other evidence.

Addendum 2025.9.2 ASDA Debate Instructions

Debate Style

ASDA invites students to compete in debate using traditional, or conversational, techniques. Progressive debate techniques such as spreading, kritiking, incorporating personal narratives and poetry as sources, and other non-traditional debate techniques are contrary to ASDA mission and values and will be cause for disciplinary action. Debaters should assume the debatability of the resolution and form their cases in a manner that affirms or negates the resolution. Judges are instructed to prefer debaters that fulfill their affirmative or negative duty over debaters that attempt to argue that there are problems with the resolution itself.

Rebuttal Speeches

In the rebuttal speeches, the debaters respond to arguments made in constructive speeches and strengthen their claims in the round. In the final Affirmative Rebuttal of the round, debaters may not introduce new arguments into the round. If new arguments are introduced in the final affirmative rebuttal speech, the judge should disregard these arguments when making their final decision.

Cross-Examination

The purpose of cross-examination is to allow the competitors to interact directly and is the only time the debaters should interact directly other than when evidence is being exchanged. During cross-examination, the debaters face the judge, not each other. One side is questioning, and the other is responding. The responder may not ask questions while being cross-examined unless they need to ask for clarification. Conversely, the questioner cannot make statements while cross-examining.

Timing Speeches & Preparation Time

Debaters will be responsible for timing their own speeches, cross-examinations, and preparation time. Debaters will be responsible for providing their own time pieces.

The time should be set to count down and should begin as soon as the debater begins speaking. The timepiece should be set to beep audibly when the time is up. A debater may finish their current sentence after their time is up but should not begin a new thought. The timepiece must be allowed to continue beeping until the debater finishes speaking.

During cross-examinations, the questioning debater will be responsible for timing.

Debaters will start and end their own preparation timer and report used and remaining times to the judge before speaking. Competitors should have their timers counting down during preparation time.

Communication with Opponent(s) or Judge(s)

Debaters may ask for their opponent's evidence or 1AC during cross-examination or preparation time. If such a request is made, a physical copy of the evidence read in the round complying with the written standards should be supplied to the opposing debater.

Debaters should face the judges while speaking, including during cross-examinations.

Debaters may not interact with the judge directly unless their timer is on. The only exception is to briefly introduce their name and position and ask for the experience or judging philosophy before the round and thank the judge after the round is over.

Debaters are prohibited from giving a judge their 1AC or any other evidence.

If a judge wishes to review a piece of evidence, they should wait until after the round and ask a staff member who will get the physical evidence from the debater. This will allow the judge to maintain a bias-free ruling of the round.

Be Respectful

Consistent with the Tournament Code of Conduct, competitors and judges agree to treat others with courtesy and kindness in and out of competition rounds, including refraining from ad hominem attacks and name calling. Ad hominem attacks are arguments directed at a person rather than the position they are maintaining. Name calling refers to any type of insult, label, or definition other than the other person's actual name (or approved nickname) or position in the round.

Be Conversational

Competitors are expected to present their debate at a conversational tone and rhythm while using language that a normal person can understand.