



Definition:

# Toronto Debating Society

## Adjudication Guidelines

Winning Team:

Best Debater:

Prime Minister	Leader of the Opposition	Gov't Seconder	Opposition Seconder
Arguments (5)			
Substantiation/Content (10, 15 for PM)			
PM is not scored for rebuttal and refutation. PM may still be awarded and deducted points for POI and X-Exam.	Rebuttal (5)		
Presentation (10)			
Emotional Impact (10)			
Teamwork (5)			
Timing (5)			



# Toronto Debating Society Adjudication 101

## Tips and Pointers

### WHAT

- It is your job as the adjudicator to analyze the speakers' performance.
- Whether you choose to announce who won at the beginning, or the end, you should explain what it was that persuaded you in your decision.
- Let each speaker know what happened and how it played out (i.e. how they framed their case).

### HOW

- Provide feedback to the speakers regarding the effectiveness of the debate. Let them know where you found value in their arguments, and where you didn't.
- What swayed you over: research, preparation, organization, value of the arguments, off the cuff remarks, anecdotes, passion?
- What was the overarching impression?
- Constructive criticism should always be followed by a suggestion for improvement (i.e. ... you were really strong when you ad-libbed on your main point, but had less of an impact when you were reading from your notes. You might want to try using cue cards and elaborate on your research for your next debate.).

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- The aim is to help debaters improve their craft and build their confidence.
- Support the development of a persuasive speaking style.
- Provide an encouraging environment to let them think on their feet and develop critical thinking skills.
- Improve listening, research, and organizational skills.
- Speak succinctly.

### REMINDERS:

- The PM is not scored for rebuttal and refutation.
- It is the PM's responsibility to present a full definition of the resolution. The Speaker must ensure it is debatable beforehand.
- The PM may still be awarded and deducted points for POI and X-Exam.

### WHAT TO AVOID

Taking too many notes and reiterating the arguments instead of providing a review.

<b>Arguments</b>	Did they establish the premise of the argument? Did they have persuasive arguments that were stated clearly? Were there multiple, interesting arguments? How relevant were they? Did they add any value? Did they flow together?
<b>Substantiation</b>	How well did they formulate a proposition and then make the case? Did they link their evidence to the premise and claims of the arguments? Were they organized? Was there a logical connection from one point to the next? Content: did their research, statistics and examples connect back to their arguments?
<b>Rebuttal</b>	Did they have counter arguments? Did they refute the evidence with more recent evidence which draws a different conclusion? Did they show the opponent's evidence does not link or apply to the conclusion? Did they refute the validity of the evidence by showing a flaw in methodology (i.e. statistical evidence). Did they demonstrate the source is biased, or not credible?
<b>Presentation</b>	Includes style, delivery, tone and pacing. Did they speak succinctly? Clearly? Body language. Did they engage the audience by looking at them? Using inflection? A variety of tones? Did they enunciate clearly?
<b>Emotional Impact</b>	Was the debater persuasive? Did they win you over? If so, how? How was their body language? Did they make eye contact with the audience? Use hand gestures? Were they passionate about what they were saying? Did they sell you on what they were saying? Style and rhetoric can play a role. What impression did they leave on you?
<b>Summary</b>	This applies only to the PM and LO. Did the speaker establish the truth of their premise [argument]? Did they structure it to a logical conclusion?
<b>Teamwork</b>	Was the overall presentation focused and seamless? Was there a balance of styles? Did the debaters share in the development of arguments? Did they set-up their team-mates position? Or follow-through? Did they contradict each other?
<b>Timing</b>	Sometimes less is more. How was the pacing? Did they finish on time?

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