AN INTRODUCTION TO POLICY

DEBATE JUDGING...
WHAT IS YOUR JOB AS A JUDGE?

You are to decide if the affirmative team’s argument to pass the plan is better or worse than the negative team’s reasons to not pass the plan.

How do you decide that?

By evaluating each teams’ arguments within the rules of debate.

What rules should guide your decision?

You can’t make the decision based on your personal opinion—you may only assess the arguments that the teams presented to you.

The arguments you evaluate must be presented during the constructive speeches and talked about throughout the rebuttals.
WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEBATE? LET’S LOOK AT IT SPEECH BY SPEECH…

The affirmative team will give the first speech. It is 8 minutes long and called the 1st affirmative constructive.

What’s in that speech?

The affirmative will present a PLAN. They must read a plan text in which they say what they are proposing that the federal government do.

They must also establish why their plan is significant, needed, and will solve the problems they say are currently happening.

A sample 1AC and cross examination: http://youtu.be/ZPJGsUyQFqs
AND THEN...

The negative team will cross examine the affirmative team. The negative team may only ask questions and the affirmative team may only answer those.

After 3 minutes of cross-ex, the negative team will give an 8 minute 1st negative constructive. In this speech, the negative team will:

   Explain why the affirmative plan is a bad idea.

They can do this through various approaches:

   They can explain why bad things will happen if the affirmative plan is passed (disadvantages).
   They can explain why they have a better idea for what to do (counterplan).
   They can explain why the affirmative plan is based off of a bad way of thinking (kritik).
   They can explain why the affirmative team is talking about something that is outside of the resolution (topicality).

A sample of 1NC that might be seen in a novice round: [http://youtu.be/ie0O5xoUEMY](http://youtu.be/ie0O5xoUEMY)
AFTER THE 1\textsuperscript{ST} NEGATIVE CONSTRUCTIVE...

The affirmative team will cross examine the negative team.

After three minutes of cross examination, the affirmative team will give their 2\textsuperscript{nd} affirmative constructive.

This speech is 8 minutes long. Since it is one of the constructive speeches, the affirmative should:

- Answer the negative arguments presented in the 1NC.
- Present any advantages or extensions (more evidence in support of the affirmative) that they want to read.

Note: This is the last affirmative speech that can contain NEW information.

Here is an example of what a 2AC might look like in a novice round: \url{http://youtu.be/xLYhFpSKxZw}
NOW THINGS GET WEIRD...

After the 2\textsuperscript{nd} affirmative constructive, the negative team cross examines the affirmative team.

The negative team now goes into the “negative block.” They will give the 2\textsuperscript{nd} negative constructive, be cross examined by the affirmative team, and go into the 1\textsuperscript{st} negative rebuttal.

What’s that mean?

The negative team gives their last constructive speech (Their last chance to make new arguments/answer the affirmative team).

Then the negative team gives the first of the rebuttals. What is a rebuttal?

A 5-minute speech that the team uses to explain how/why they are winning the debate.

One thing to remember: They cannot bring up new arguments in the rebuttal.

An example of the 1NR and 1AR:  http://youtu.be/evLaYOWTj_M
AND THEN...

After the negative block, the affirmative will give a 1\textsuperscript{st} affirmative rebuttal.

This is a 5 minute speech. The affirmative team must bring up any arguments they want you to consider in deciding the debate. Here are a few things to know about this rebuttal and the next 2 speeches.

--If an argument is not brought up and discussed in the rebuttals, it can not be used to make your decision about who won the round.

--The debaters may not bring up new arguments in the rebuttal.
AND THE NEXT 2 SPEECHES

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} negative rebuttal is the last negative speech. The speech is 5 minutes long.

Here are a few things to remember:

1. The debaters may not bring up arguments they have not discussed before.
2. If the debaters want you to consider an argument in deciding the round, they must mention it in this speech.

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} affirmative rebuttal is the last speech of the round. The speech is 5 minutes long and the same rules apply to this speech as to the 2NR.

Here is an example of the end of the debate round: http://youtu.be/D4ySjAK87DI
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

In a debate round, there is quite a bit of lingo. Here is a basic introduction to that lingo:

The resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela.

Topicality—The affirmative team’s case must fit within the resolution. If the negative team thinks the affirmative is not within the resolution, they must debate about it.

Disad/DA: A disadvantage is a bad thing that will happen because the affirmative plan is passed. Example: Spending DA---If we spend money on this plan the government won’t be able to fund another important program and that will lead to all kinds of problems.

CP/Counterplan: A plan that solves the same problem as the affirmative plan but through a different approach. Example: China DA—Have the Chinese government do the plan instead of the USFG.
MORE LINGO...

Kritik—The negative team argues that the affirmative team’s approach to USFG policies is flawed and should be rejected. Example: Capitalism K—The negative argues that capitalism is a bad system and the affirmative team’s promotion of capitalism through the plan is a bad idea.

Theory—These are arguments about what the rules of debate should be. Just like everything else in the round, these arguments must convince the judge. Example: The affirmative team might argue that PICs (counterplans that use the affirmative team’s plan text but just change who is doing it or how it is completed…) are bad for debate.

I’m sure there is more to tell you, but this should get you started.
TO REVIEW

Your obligation as a judge:

1. Keep a record of what is said in the round.
2. Evaluate the arguments presented throughout the round.
3. Decide on which team presented the better reasons to pass or not pass the plan.
4. Fill out your ballot. (This means you give each speaker a ranking in the round, a number of points for speaking, and decide on a winning team. Also—make sure to give the debaters helpful feedback and an explanation for your decision.)
5. Bring your ballot back ASAP. (The whole tournament is counting on you returning your ballot quickly!)