

BUDL EMS Judging Basics

Before You Judge

1. *Have an open mind!* It is the job of the debaters to persuade you in one direction or another. The debaters will interpret the topic, create arguments, and use evidence that they believe is relevant. Allow the opposing side to debate the interpretation, arguments, and evidence. Don't do it yourself.
2. *You are prepared!* Even if this is your first time judging, understand that you have the tools to evaluate this debate. BUDL's elementary and middle school debates have been designed to be more accessible to audiences. Use your best judgment and follow the directions of this form and you're prepared to judge!

Role of the Judge

1. Decision-Maker – Vote for the team that presented the more convincing arguments.
Consider:
 - a. Based on the arguments presented, which policy (affirmative or negative) would be the better one?
 - b. Where a point is contested, which side gave the better arguments/evidence/support?
 - c. What important points were NOT contested? Has one side failed to respond to an important argument?
 - d. If an argument was not made clearly, do you feel the need to consider it?
2. Educator – Provide feedback for the teams after the debate. Help teams understand things they did well and things they can do to improve.
3. Time-Keeper – Ensure that the debate runs smoothly by tracking the proper times for each speech. Remind students that they have preparation time that they can use.
4. Arbitrator – Try to allow the debaters to work things out during the debate, but if the debaters need help, be supportive.

Determining Speaker Points

After you've decided the winning team, you must assign each speaker points. Speaker points are used to determine awards for individual speaking. You can assign half-points for speaking, as well.

- *30 points* – Best debater you've ever encountered
- *28.5-29 points* – Amazing.
- *27-28.5 points* – Above average.
- *26-27 points* – Good.
- *25-26 points* – Some success
- *Below 25* – Generally speaking, try to avoid assigning points below 25. This is reserved for students who violate the BUDL Code of Conduct.