

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE GUIDELINES

A decision should be based upon:

- 1.** Clear use of value argumentation throughout the round.
 - a.* Establishing of a value premise to support the debater's position in the round.
 - b.* Establishing of values criteria to support the debater's position in the round. Values criteria are a system upon which to judge values. These criteria may range in format, but the relationship between the value premise and criteria should be clear so that the resolution can be evaluated.
 - c.* Clash in the debate based upon the values criteria and/or the value premise.
- 2.** Application of the presented value to the specific topic at hand.
 - a.* Validity of logic in relation to the value as applied to the specific topic.
 - b.* Logical chain of reasoning, using the value, which leads to the conclusions of the affirmative or negative position.
 - c.* Clear explanation of the relation of the value to the specific topic.
- 3.** Clarity of ideas in the debater's presentation expressed in an easy-to-follow structure to aid the listener's notetaking.
- 4.** Presentation of contextual definitions. Each speaker has the option to define terms. Interpretation of definitions is a legitimate component of clash.
- 5.** Debating the resolution in its entirety. Neither the affirmative nor the negative is to debate his or her position exclusively from the standpoint of isolated examples.
- 6.** Effectiveness of delivery. The Lincoln-Douglas debater should be one who uses his or her oral communications skills to persuade the listener with logic, analysis, and mode of delivery. Delivery should approximate superior speaking to community groups.
- 7.** Since this is debate, clash is necessary. With the exception of the affirmative constructive speech, neither speaker should be rewarded for presenting oratory unrelated to the rest of the debate. Clash in the debate should be on one or more of the following as they are applied to the specific topic: the value premise, the values criteria, the argumentation.
- 8.** The debate is to be judged on the overall presentation. Insignificant dropped arguments are not enough to give a speaker a loss in the round.
- 9.** A judge's preference for a particular value(s) position should not enter into the decision. Objectivity must be the primary goal of any judge.
- 10.** Persuasiveness and logic should be primary considerations of the Lincoln-Douglas debate judge. The nature of the event centers upon the value resolution. Arguments must be supported by reasoning and evidence. The arguments may be philosophic or pragmatic, but they must be linked to the value resolution.
- 11.** The affirmative obligation is to support the resolution with value(s) and to clash with the negative position. The negative obligation is to clash with the affirmative position by using refutation and/or opposing value(s).