



**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
WILLIAM FREMD HIGH SCHOOL  
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS AND PUBLIC FORUM  
DEBATE TOURNAMENT  
[FREMD.TABROOM.COM](http://FREMD.TABROOM.COM)**

**JUDGE EXPECTATIONS**

**Please read this document carefully. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in removal from the tournament pool and removal of competitors to maintain the judge quota.**

*Debate is an educational activity and the students are our main priority.  
Please do your best to support that mission.  
Judges are at all times to act in a dignified and professional manner*

**START OF THE TOURNAMENT**

**All judges should bring a laptop or mobile device (e.g. iPad) to submit online ballots. Smart phones that connect to WiFi/Internet also work, but are not ideal.**

**Cell reception is weak in our building, so please connect to "GUEST211" Network. No password is required.**

All judges are expected to **arrive at Fremd no later than 8AM** for tournament announcements in the student cafeteria. **All judges are expected to stay through Round 5.**

**New judges should be *trained by their head coaches before the tournament.*** New judges should be identified in the Judge Notes section of Tabroom.com Registration. We will do our best to pair them with an experienced judge during Round 1, but it cannot be guaranteed. **Since this is an only an Open (JV/V) tournament, we are expecting that most judges will have experience judging.**

**Judges should check in with their head coaches in the morning, not the registration table.** Coaches are expected to communicate any judge changes during registration.

**ONCE PAIRINGS ARE RELEASED**

**Please check all pairings to verify that you do or do not have a judge assignment.** They will be posted electronically on [fremd.tabroom.com](http://fremd.tabroom.com). Hard copies will be posted in the Student Cafeteria and Judges Lounge, but the expectation is that you can check this online on a mobile device or laptop.

**Please check your Room #s carefully.** Some rooms end in A or S and they are in fact different rooms from those without those letters (e.g. 115S is not the same room as 115).

**Judges who are not assigned to judge a debate are expected to be on "standby."** Specifically, please stay in the Faculty Cafeteria (Judges Lounge) so that we can find you if necessary. Do not leave the campus.

**Judges should be the first ones to enter a room and the last ones to leave the room.** Judges and debaters are not to touch anything other than student desks (i.e. DO NOT SIT AT THE TEACHER'S DESK OR UNPLUG ANYTHING). Any unusual classroom conditions should be reported to the tournament director or a Fremd coach immediately.

**Rounds should start ASAP.** If a debater is not present within 10 minutes of the release of pairings, please have someone communicate that with the tab table (Library/Media Center) or a representative from

Fremd. DO NOT JUST SIT IN THE ROOM. This inattentiveness unnecessarily delays the tournament. Please try to keep your door propped open while you are waiting for any debaters. Runners will then be easily able to identify delayed rounds.

**No Scouting.** Observers are only allowed in rounds where members of their own school are competing or judging. Observers are allowed to flow for educational purposes. Some schools may only have observers and they are allowed to observe any debate.

### **DURING THE ROUND**

**To confirm that all competitors and the judge are present in the assigned round, YOU MUST HIT "START ROUND" on your Tabroom.com Online Ballot. Please do not forget this step before the round begins and please do not hit "START ROUND" until all competitors have been verified and are present.**

**Judges should verbally verify the debater information that is on the ballot.** In Public Forum, especially, please confirm School Names, Debater Names, Sides of the Debate, and Speaking Order (e.g. the CON may at times speak first instead of the PRO, unlike Lincoln-Douglas procedure). Debaters should legibly write their team information on the boards in the classrooms. Please be mindful of who is in the room. Make sure the correct teams are there and did not accidentally walk into the wrong room.

**Be nice to the kids.** This tournament may be their first debate tournament ever. While it is important to be honest, always be supportive and professional in any criticism. No one is suggesting you avoid critical feedback, but please be professional and effective representatives of your school's program.

**Be attentive during all parts of the debate.** Judges are expected to flow (take careful notes) during speeches and listen attentively during Cross-Ex/Crossfire. Judges can use timers and laptops to adjudicate the round, but texting during the debate conveys serious disregard to the debaters in the round (and the coaches/schools who hired you).

**Judges should not conduct online research to fact-check debaters during the round.** Since we are electronic this year, it may be tempting to fact-check students during the round. It is the obligation of the competitors to challenge the veracity of arguments presented. The judge, as always, should intervene as little as possible.

### **END OF ROUND**

**No disclosure.** Judges are expected to completely and thoroughly fill out each ballot but **cannot disclose their decision.**

**Please type constructive and specific feedback in a) Comments Section for each Team and b) Reason for Decision.** This provides great insight for coaches after each tournament. Vague and/or sparse ballots are not useful educational tools. Reasons for Decision (RFD) should in particular specify the arguments that the judge found most convincing (or not) and how/why the arguments were weighed. RFD's such as "The NEG presented their side better" or "The AFF did a better job debating" would be considered vague.

**Oral critiques are acceptable, as long as they are brief and constructive.** If a judge feels a lengthier critique is needed, they should turn in the ballot first, *then* speak with the debaters in the student cafeteria. Serious concerns from the round should be addressed on the ballot and communicated the school's coach immediately.

**Please be mindful of awarding fair speaker points.** Scores range from 20-30. 30s are rare and denote exceptional debate skills. Scores of 20-24 should also be rare and given in cases of below-average debate skills and/or offensive behavior during the round. While rare, scores below 25 are acceptable, but should be *specifically justified on the ballot*. Half-points (e.g. 28.5) are acceptable and will be tabbed. No tenth-points will be accepted.

**Low Point Wins are acceptable, but MUST be confirmed on the ballot.** Your Tabroom.com ballot will force you to confirm Low Point Wins.

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM**

**Ballots should be submitted online no later than 10 minutes after the round ending.** If more time is needed, fill out the decision immediately. You can return to your ballot to add to Comments and the Reason for Decision. This should be done in exceptional situations, and if you elect to do this, you must let the tab room know.

Please be mindful that the tournament cannot move forward until the last ballot is returned each round.

**AFTER YOU LEAVE THE ROOM**

Return to the Judges Lounge (Faculty Cafeteria). If there are any issues with your online ballot, the Tab Staff will expect to find you there.

*Thank you for taking the time to support our students and for adhering to our rules. We realize how important our judges are to the success of this tournament, and we are here to support you and our students. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the tab room immediately.*