

Trainee Adjudication Guide

This handout covers four things:

- 1) Process for shadow adjudicating.
- 2) Expectations for Junior Debating.
- 3) Tips for adjudicating.
- 4) Aspects of a good adjudication.

It is the firm belief of the NZSDC that the key skills to adjudicating are not to be gained from seminars and reading, but from practice. It is therefore important to acknowledge that the material covered here is very general and introductory. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask them as they come up in "shadow" adjudications that you do with a NZSDC adjudicator.

1) The process for shadow adjudicating

- You should be on time to every debate.
- You will perform in every respect as if you were the sole adjudicator of the debate. However, your decision will not be counted or delivered.
- At the conclusion of the debate the NZSDC adjudicator(s) will deliver their adjudication and then briefly consult you to see how you saw the debate and provide assistance with any questions you have.

Important points:

- We are under time constraints so consultation after the debate will be limited to 5 minutes after each debate.
- You are acting alongside the NZSDC, a strictly neutral body. Please wear tidy casual attire and not school uniform or colours.

2) Expectations for Junior Debating

- Clear, convincing speeches.
- Speakers acknowledge the opposition case and at least attempt to deal with it.
- Teams present, and by in large follow, a team line.
- Speakers conduct themselves appropriately

3) Tips for Adjudicating

- **USE the marking guide!**

<i>The Marking Guide</i>					
STANDARD	TOTAL		STYLE		MATTER
	100	50	50		
Brilliant, best ever seen	80	40	40	40	
Excellent	76-79	39	39		
Very Good	74-75	37	37		
Better than average	71-73	36	36		
Good average for tournament	70	35	35		
Below average	67-69	34	34		
Needs work	65-66	33	33		
Needs a lot of work	61-64	32	32		
Lacks most key skills	60	30	30		

NB: For replies it is easiest to mark as above and then halve each mark.

- Keep a separate piece of paper divided into two for jotting down key issues as the speakers bring them up and address them.
- Don't just spend the debate writing down as much as you can. Watch the debaters carefully and jot down little important things as they come up.
- Keep adjudication speeches well planned and brief.

Suggested formula:

- Thank speakers, highlight a good point about the debate.
- Identify the key issues addressed. Say how each team dealt with them.
- Deliver your decision.
- Provide one piece of constructive criticism that *everyone* can benefit from.

- Be aware of your body language!
- Don't apply your knowledge or perspective to the debate.
- Never "debate about the debate".
- At all times be professional.

4) Aspects of a good adjudication

Put simply, adjudicators have three roles to fulfil:

- Ensure the debate runs smoothly
- Call the debate correctly
- Provide a useful and considered adjudication speech

In assessing how well an adjudicator performs these roles we can look at the following 6 aspects of an adjudication:

1. Overall, the adjudicator is an effective assessor
2. The adjudicator presented and explained the result clearly
3. The adjudicator clearly indicated the important aspects of the debate
4. The adjudicator made good and relevant use of examples and illustrations to explain difficult concepts
5. The adjudicator's report-back was clear and helpful for future debates
6. The adjudicator's attitude toward the speakers has been good

[The NZ Schools' Debating Council thanks the Coaches of the Canterbury Speaking Union Team 2000 for making this document available.]