

Executive Summary of Debate Document Changes, 2023-2024

The following is an executive summary of revisions made to Stoa debate documents for the 2023-2024 debate season. This summary is intended to help coaches and students note where revisions have been made.

Review of this document should not be used in place of reading the updated documents and becoming familiar with their actual language.

Ballots:

1. Lincoln Douglas Value
 - a. Replaced Individual Points category “Analysis & Reasoning” with “Value Argumentation.” Reordered other Individual Points categories to reflect priority.
2. Team Policy
 - a. Reordered Individual Points categories to reflect priority.
3. Parliamentary
 - a. Reordered Individual Points categories to reflect priority.

Judge Orientation Slides:

- All Judge Orientation slides for each debate format have been redone.
- The combined Lincoln Douglas and Team Policy Judge Orientation has been eliminated.

Lincoln Douglas Debate Rules:

- An explanation of Lincoln Douglas Value Debate has been added to

Section III. The Lincoln Douglas Value Debate Round

It states:

“Lincoln Douglas Value debate is a discussion of values tied to the resolution. It primarily concerns what ought to be instead of what is. The judge should place greater weight on philosophical and logical arguments made over specific applications or evidence in deciding on the big picture idea.

A value is a principle by which the validity of the resolution may be examined.”

- This change is being made in light of several factors:
 - 1) Lincoln Douglas is an entirely different form of debate and as such, has a different purpose and definition;
 - 2) Judges should be encouraged to focus on Value Argumentation;
 - 3) Judges should give greater weight to certain types of arguments; and
 - 4) Judges should understand what a value is.

Parliamentary Debate Rules:

- No changes have been made.

Team Policy Debate Rules:

- No changes have been made.

Evidence Philosophy and Standards:

- Under **Evidence Standards**
I. Qualification Standards

“What qualifies something as evidence?”

3) Evidence should have a complete source citation

- “A complete source citation should include:” has been updated to reflect current evidence citation rules.

- Under **II. Source Standards**

“The following should be avoided:

- Quoting from a blog unless it is sponsored by an organization that regulates who can post and assures the identity and credentials of the author”
- Has been changed to: “Quoting from a blog unless it written by an author who is an expert in the topic area.”