

Ontario Student Debating Union

Scoring Range

65 – 70: (very rare): This speech was poor. Stylistically it was weak and from the perspective of matter brought very little if anything to the round. Most debaters who receive this score will have filled little of their time. There was no real honest attempt made to debate, and it was generally ineffective and lacked any real structure. Scores in the higher end of this range will show some attempt to deal with the issues and the actual topic, but was still quite a poor speech. Speeches that are deemed offensive in nature can also fall into this category. We will likely ask you to justify this score.

70 - 74 : This speech was below average, but they have made a good attempt at a structured debate speech. The debater may or may not have filled most of their time, but there were significant gaps in both style and logic that detracted from the speech. While the debater had an understanding of the issues in the round, he/she did not do a great job addressing them. This debater perhaps did not offer any points of information, or answer or deal with any effectively.

75 - 79 (most scores are often in this range): This speech was average. The debater was competent and generally managed to identify the major issues in the debate, both in constructive arguments and in refutation. He/she presented sufficient matter which was generally well organized. Stylistically he/she was not brilliant but at least easy to listen to, and he/she at least offered or answered some points of information. The debater will likely have filled time, and generally did all they were supposed to do.

80 - 84 (best debaters will consistently score around here): This speech was generally very good. A score of 80% is the benchmark for someone who did everything they were supposed to, and did it quite well. The debater filled all of their time, understood the key issues of the topic, offered good points of information and answered them effectively, constructed relevant arguments in a logical and organized manner, refuted all arguments adequately, was stylistically excellent and/or had interesting and thought provoking analysis. This debater did all that they were called on to do and it was generally a polished speech, but you can still find some room for improvement. A debater who averages scores in the higher end of this range over all of their rounds will likely win, or come very close to, the top speaker award.

85 – 89 (rare): This speech was outstanding, and of a quality you rarely see. The debater had excellent style and charisma, and brilliant analysis. He/She brought up arguments that were insightful, creative, relevant and well developed. The argumentation and analysis were far beyond what one would expect from a high school student. This debater offered excellent points of information, and answered any that were asked confidently and effectively. All arguments were refuted systematically and thoroughly. You will likely not see a speech of this caliber, but they do happen, and even then you should stick to the lower end of this range. You will have thoroughly listening to this speech and were sad when his/her time elapsed. You should be prepared to justify why you gave this score.