RONALD REAGAN DEBATE SERIES

REAGAN EDUCATION

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Debaters are expected to conduct themselves with civility and decorum; aggression is not tolerated.

- Judges are to assume the role of the average American voter. The scores of debaters' who use debate terminology will be lowered.

- No use of electronic devices (i.e. laptops, tablets, etc.) during rounds, cell phones may be used for timing purposes only.

- All speech documents and research materials must be printed (i.e. paper documents, note-cards, handwritten notes, etc.)

- Judges are required to use the rubric provided to evaluate the round, assign speaker points to each competitor, and determine the winner.

- The debater with the highest score wins the round; the debaters may not receive the same score.

- Debaters are allowed two minutes of optional preparation time, which may be used, at their discretion, throughout the round. Debaters should keep their own time and state how much they have used and how much is remaining after each use.

- Any questions regarding rules or issues should be directed to the tournament administration.

- Please be aware that the tournament schedules and forfeit rules are subject to change at the discretion of the tournament administration.

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MODERATOR QUESTIONING GUIDE

Unique to the Ronald Reagan debate format, judges, also known as moderators, ask the debaters questions, just like a real presidential debate!

The purpose of this period is as opportunity for debaters to show their breadth/depth of knowledge or clarify their points.

There are no "gotcha questions," questions that argue against, or criticize the debater.

Judges should ask each debater an equal number of questions.

Engaging questions encourage the debater to think critically about what they are arguing and apply their knowledge.

Judges can ask the same question to each debater.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

Could you further elaborate on your point about _____?

How would this impact you and me personally?

How would this impact our community?

What do you believe is your opponent's strongest point?

Why should I care about this issue?

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	1	2	3	4	5
LIKENESS TO RONALD REAGAN Much like President Reagan, competitors should present their ideas with a variety of techniques, including elements of humor, storytelling, and charisma. Debaters should aim to connect with their audience by using big picture concepts and eye contact. Competitors should follow President Reagan's example by being civil, polite, and respectful in both questioning periods and speeches. Referencing President Reagan's values and ideas is encouraged.	Debater showed no personality and uniqueness and/or was disrespectful	Debater showed little personality and minimally incorporated Reagan	Debater incorporated some, but not all, elements of Reagan's speaking style	Debater incorporated all important aspects of Reagan's speaking style, but can have a more polished style	Debater excelled at incorporating the attributes of Reagan's speaking style
ORGANIZATION AND CLARITY A successful debater communicates ideas with clarity, organization and eloquence. Competitors should appeal to the average American voter and be easy to understand by enunciating clearly and speaking at a reasonable pace. They should avoid debate terminology/ jargon, and any theory.	It was impossible to follow the debater's speech and logic	Only people with technical knowledge can understand this debater/unreasonable speaking pace was used	Debater was somewhat organized, but can greatly improve clarity	Debater was decently organized, and most people can have understand	Anyone could have understood this debater/well-organized
KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC Skilled debaters should demonstrate their knowledge of the topic in both the moderator and competitor questioning periods. They should be able to competently ask and answer questions. In both questioning periods and constructive speeches, a successful debater should not be dependent on their notes but speak confidently and knowledgeably.	Debater demonstrated little to no topical knowledge/was completely dependent on notes and speech documents	Debater did not have a firm grasp of the topic and relied heavily on notes and speech documents	Debater somewhat understood the topic, but could have been less dependent on notes and speech documents	Debater demonstrated subject competence and did not rely heavily on notes and speech documents	Debater demonstrated a strong grasp of the subject at hand and was not dependent on notes
PERSUASIVENESS Competitors should use a balance of storytelling, logic, and evidence to make their points. While quality evidence should be used by debaters, win/loss decisions should not be based on evidence alone. A skilled debater should use critical thinking and big picture ideas to persuade the audience of their position.	Debater made no arguments/ had no balance of storytelling, logic, and evidence/ used flawed logic or evidence	Debater used some, but not all of the elements of persuasion/ ideas were limited in scope	Debater used storytelling, logic, and evidence, but wasn't persuasive enough in doing so	Debater was persuasive and effectively used all elements	Debater was very persuasive and used all elements to present a better case
REBUTTALS (RESPONSES TO OPPONENTS' ARGUMENTS) Rebuttals include all responses to an opponent's logic. Debaters should respond to all major arguments given by their opponent. They should use solid reasoning to analyze and counter opposing claims. Successful competitors should incorporate arguments into the overall story of the debate in a way that is easy to follow and covers all relevant points.	Debater did not address/counter any of their opponent's main arguments	Debater only minimally addressed/countered some of their opponent's main arguments	Debater only addressed/countered some of their opponent's main arguments	Debater addressed/countered most of their opponent's main arguments	Debater successfully addressed/countered all of their opponent's main arguments

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BALLOT

JUDGE NAME:	
ROUND/FLIGHT:	ROOM NUMBER:
TOPIC:	

AFFIRMATIVE SPEAKER					
SPEAKER NAME:					

LIKENESS TO RONALD REAGAN	1	2	3	4	5
ORGANIZATION AND CLARITY	1	2	3	4	5
KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC	1	2	3	4	5
PERSUASIVENESS	1	2	3	4	5
REBUTTALS (RESPONSES TO OPPONENTS' ARGUMENTS)	1	2	3	4	5

TOTAL SCORE:

NEGATIVE SPEAKER					
SPEAKER NAME:					

LIKENESS TO RONALD REAGAN	1	2	3	4	5
ORGANIZATION AND CLARITY	1	2	3	4	5
KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC	1	2	3	4	5
PERSUASIVENESS	1	2	3	4	5
REBUTTALS (RESPONSES TO OPPONENTS' ARGUMENTS)	1	2	3	4	5

TOTAL SCORE:

THE WINNING DEBATER IS THE COMPETITOR WHO SCORED THE HIGHEST POINTS ON THE RUBRIC. CIRCLE THE WINNER'S NAME ABOVE.

WRITE 1-2 AREAS WHERE THE SPEAKER COULD IMPROVE:

WRITE 1-2 AREAS WHERE THE SPEAKER COULD IMPROVE: