

ROLE OF A JUDGE

Judges in the Ronald Reagan Debate Series serve as evaluators of communication, civility, and persuasive leadership, not as technical policy experts.

Judges are responsible for:

- scoring debaters using the provided rubric
- observing communication style, tone, clarity, and story integration
- ensuring adherence to Reagan-style values
- submitting written evaluations only (no oral feedback)
- providing constructive comments that encourage reflection and growth

Judges should look for:

- clear communication and relatable explanation
- use of stories or real-world examples
- constructive tone and respectful engagement
- solution-oriented thinking
- evidence of preparation and understanding

Important Key Values

Judges score competitors based on how well they demonstrate:

- clarity
- civility
- ideas, not attacks
- constructive engagement

Important Differences from Traditional Debate

Judges do not give verbal feedback or oral critiques. All feedback is written only, because written evaluations:

- encourage students to self-reflect
- promote careful preparation
- build resilience and professionalism
- reduce pressure during the event
- allow for a fairer, more consistent judging experience

Judges' comments and ballots are shared with students only after the competition concludes.