

## **Proposal #7 – Expand the time limits of the NFA LD Format**

(requires majority to pass)

**Justification:** The current format of NFA-LD debate undermines the essential goals of the activity – education and competition. There are substantial disadvantages to the current system that actively undermine the benefits for student participants. Additionally, time allocations in the status quo incentivize shallow or non-strategic approaches to winning debates. When debaters approach a round wondering whether they can “spread” the other debater out of the debate by reading so many arguments that the negative team can pick the argument with the fewest number of responses, it is a detriment to the activity and undermines participation. When judges have made up their minds before the final speech or affirmative debaters “go through the motions” in the second affirmative rebuttal, it discourages thoughtful argumentation in lieu of virtue signaling. This proposal resolves many of the structural flaws in the allocation of time without sacrificing brevity or unique nature of the NFA-LD format. It further promotes critical thinking, competition, and pedagogy without disrupting the current format of tournaments.

**Amend rule II.A.12.e to read:**

Time Limits for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

**First** Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes

Cross-Examination 3 minute

**First** Negative Constructive ~~7 minutes~~ 6 minutes

Cross-Examination 3 minutes

**Second Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes**

**Cross-Examination 2 minutes**

**Second Negative Constructive 8 minutes**

**Cross-Examination 2 minutes**

**First** Affirmative Rebuttal ~~6 minutes~~ 5 minutes

Negative Rebuttal ~~6 minutes~~ 5 minutes

**Second** Affirmative Rebuttal ~~3 minutes~~ 4 minutes

Prep time per debater ~~4 minutes~~ 5 minutes