

Proposal #5 – Update the evidence rules for hybrid and digital evidence era of debate.

(requires majority to pass)

Justification: Evidence requirements (subsection (b)) were written in a time when most debates occurred on paper and photocopies were not a museum relic. Additionally, interviews, personal or otherwise, are rarely if ever used in competition, and with the ubiquitous adoption of electronic speech documents in the COVID-era, many of the evidence requirements are either antiquated or irrelevant. Hybrid and online tournaments make the clause in subsection (d) outdated. This proposal would still ban collaboration with outside parties, but would remove the restriction on communication with people outside the physical space of the classroom to allow for zoom debates.

Amend by-law II.A.12 to read -

- b. Use of Evidence in Lincoln-Douglas Debate: **Students are required to use accurate and directly quoted evidence with proper respect to the context of the original source. Debaters are required to make available to their opponent and judges copies of any evidence used in the round for the duration of the debate. At the conclusion of the debate, judges may review evidence in the round and competitors are required to provide the evidence and source citation upon the request of judges.**
- ~~Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced in their speeches. In both prepared speeches and speeches composed with limited preparation time, debaters should use evidence that is accurately and directly quoted. The evidence should be quoted with proper respect to the context of the original source. Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be verified. Information gathered from personal and/or phone interviews, as well as information from electronic sources, may be used, provided the student does the following~~
- ~~1. Indicates during the performance the name of the source, date the information was collected and method used to collect the information; and,~~
 - ~~2. Possesses a means to verify the accuracy of the evidence should it be formally challenged. Verification may include a transcript of the interview, broadcast, etc., a notarized letter of authenticity from the source identifying specific passages from the performance as accurate, and/or phone numbers at which the source may be reached to verify the veracity of the information. (This last option is not recommended as the sole option since the source may not be reachable at the time an ethical charge is made.)~~
 - ~~3. The first time a source is presented, the debater should read the full source aloud when introducing the evidence. A "full source" is assumed to include author's name, author's qualifications (when apparent in the original), full date, and title of source. Page numbers need not be read during the debate,~~

but should be available upon request. Once a source has been cited, evidence subsequently cited from the source need only include the author's and/or publication's name as well as a phrase along the lines of "previously cited."

- 4. Both speakers in a debate are required to make available to their opponent copies of any evidence used in the round, including the affirmative constructive speech. The evidence must be returned to the speaker at the end of the debate. If the evidence is only available in a digital format, the debater is required to make a digital version of the evidence available for the entirety of the debate at the opponent's discretion. For example, if an affirmative case is only available on laptop, the negative should be allowed to keep the laptop for reference until the debate is over. At the conclusion of the debate, competitors and judges may review evidence read in the round and record sources. Competitors must provide access to a written version of the source citation, in either physical or digital format, upon request by the judge or other competitor in the round. Time to record sources may be limited based on tournament schedule constraints. When time restrictions prevent recording of sources during the round, round participants may ask to review sources at a later point during the tournament. Competitors wishing to photograph, film, or otherwise copy pieces of opponent's evidence in their entirety must first request permission. Competitors are not required to grant permission for photographing of the evidence. Judges may not photograph evidence during a round, nor may judges ask debaters for permission to do so. After the ballot has been returned judges may approach a coach for permission to photograph the evidence.**
- c. Violations of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures: If a debater, during the course of the debate, charges his/her opponent with violating a standard or rule, as established by the National Forensics Association Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures, the debate shall immediately cease. The judge will bring the students to a member of the tournament committee and the debater making the charge will fill out a formal complaint according to the provisions under(1) in the section "Violation of the Code of Standards." The complaint will then be adjudicated as in any other complaint. If the debater making the charge during the round refuses to file a formal complaint, that debater will receive a loss for the debate. Complaints made after a round will follow the standard procedure listed in the "violation" section of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- d. Electronic devices may be used in the round (e.g. cell phones as timers, laptops with evidence or for notes), but competitors must agree to NOT communicate with anyone else, either inside or outside the room, during the course of the debate via their electronic devices. Internet connected electronic devices may be used in the round (e.g. cell phones as timers, laptops with evidence or for notes). Collaboration during the debate with any other person is prohibited.**