

TOP 20 DO'S AND DON'TS

For Judging Contest Rounds in the
All Japan High School English Debate Association

JDA

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- DO** follow the argument sequence carefully
- DO** reconcile arguments to reach a decision
- DO** give the arguers freedom to speak with each other to reach mutual understanding
- DO** assess evidence quality as support for claims
- DO** work on your decision during preparation time
- DO** let the debaters shape your decision
- DO** give specific suggestions for improvement to both teams
- DO** be aware of time when explaining your decision
- DO** be firm in explaining your reasons
- DO** be positive and make specific suggestions

- DON'T** vote on new arguments in rebuttals
- DON'T** decide the round based on arguments not made in the debate
- DON'T** fail to interrupt when appropriate
- DON'T** compare evidence on only one dimension
- DON'T** decide the round before it's over
- DON'T** "reconstruct" the round
- DON'T** talk to only one team when giving your reasons for decision
- DON'T** forget to explain your decision-making process after the round
- DON'T** debate debaters
- DON'T** discourage debaters