

Executive Summary of Debate Document Changes, 2024-2025

The following is an executive summary of revisions made to Stoa debate documents for the 2024-2025 debate season. This summary is intended to help coaches and students note where revisions have been made.

Review of this document should not be used in place of reading the updated documents and becoming familiar with their actual language.

I. Debate Event Rules:

The support section of the rules for both Lincoln Douglas and Team Policy have multiple updates. Added or changed text within this section is noted by the red text below. The black text represents words that were not changed from last year.

Reasons for change:

- 1) The section that discusses the responsibility of the debater to correctly represent all support in the round was moved out from under the evidence subsection to a top level point in the category of support. This is to clarify that the debater is responsible for the accuracy and correct representation of the original source for all types of support.
- 2) It has been observed in several contexts, including NITOC, that debaters were gaining ethos within their rounds by citing a study or article but only summarizing the article (sometimes inaccurately). Under the current rules, the content of the article or study being explained or summarized was not reviewable by an opponent or judge because content of the article was not quoted verbatim. The changes below address this deficiency by making the content summarized and explained open for review by an opponent and judge.
- 3) In point F.3.b.vi clarification is issued to address the handling of a book in the round.
- 4) Section F.4 contains new rules to address how summarizations and explanations can be properly used in a round.

F. Support

- 1) Lincoln-Douglas Debate makes use of a wide variety of support to defend and clarify arguments, which may include (but is not limited to) logic, definitions, quotations, facts, examples, applications, analogies, cited material and other relevant information.

- 2) Debaters are responsible for all information presented in the round. Misrepresentation or fabrication of articles, authors, sources or any other information in the round is strictly prohibited.
- 3) Evidence (a subset of support) is the oral verbatim reading of quoted text as well as an accompanying citation from a particular source that is publicly available
 - a) Evidence must be physically present, on paper, in the debate room.
 - b) The written source citation must include:
 - i) All authors (if available).
 - ii) Publication name.
 - iii) Complete date (if an internet source does not include a publication date, then the date of the last website update and the date accessed should be included).
 - iv) URL (if available).
 - v) Page number, if from a printed source.
 - vi) The citation is located directly above or below the quoted text. (If quoting from a book, a bookmark, notecard, or other notation should be used to place the full citation next to the quoted text.)
 - c) Evidence must be read verbatim from the first word of the sentence to the ending punctuation without redaction or addition.
 - i) Information in parentheses may only be orally omitted when it does not change the meaning of the quotation. Information in parentheses must remain within the printed quotation.
 - ii) When citing information from a dictionary or legal statute (e.g. U.S. Code, the Constitution) a single clause may be considered a complete sentence.
 - iii) Charts and graphs may be explained in the debater's own words, but not displayed.
 - d) Evidence may not be pieced together from non-contiguous sentences of an article. Non-contiguous sentences from the same article need to either be cited as separate pieces of evidence, or identified orally that sentences or sections were skipped (e.g. "later in the article").
 - e) Ellipses may not be added by the debater, but may be included if part of the original material.
- 4) When a cited article or study is being explained or summarized, the following protocol apply:
 - i) If summarization of support is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Summarization may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. (This is not to be confused with support that relies on common knowledge and thus is given no source citation).
 - ii) The debater must orally cite each source and summarize it individually.
 - iii) The debater must make it orally clear that the words being used to describe the evidence are the debater's own and not the original source's (e.g. "to summarize the article").
 - v) When summarizing evidence, a printed excerpt of what has been summarized must be physically present, on paper, with the full source citation, in the debate room. The specific lines or section from which the

summary is taken must be highlighted, underlined, or otherwise formatted for identification in the round.

- 5) Evidence and/or cited support presented by a debater must be consistent with the intent of the source piece.
- 6) Evidence and/or cited support must be made available if requested by the other team or the judge, as the team presenting the evidence has the burden of validating that evidence if challenged.
- 7) Judicial Review—if the judge desires to review any written materials, this request must wait until the round is over, and must be at the initiative and direction of the judge.
 - i) Review may only include written materials that were orally presented by the debaters during the round.
 - ii) Debaters may not extend or explain arguments during the review.
- 8) Debaters may not attempt to provide the judge with written materials before, during, or after the round. Debaters are free to refer orally to the judge's right of evidence review, both in speeches and in cross-examination.
- 9) When evaluating the round, the judge is free to disregard any evidence and/or cited support presented which is found to be deficient in any aspects described above.
- 10) Debaters may not display "props" to the judge at any point in the round. A "prop" is defined as an object that substitutes an oral communication with a visual depiction.

Parliamentary Debate Rules:

- No changes have been made.

Ballots:

1. Lincoln Douglas Value
 - a. No Changes to LD Ballots
2. Team Policy
 - a. No Changes to TP Ballots
3. Parliamentary
 - a. No Changes to Parli Ballots

Judge Orientation Slides:

- Parli Slides are in progress.

Evidence Philosophy and Standards:

No changes