



Reply Speeches and How World Schools Is Judged.

Learn what a reply speech is for, how to write one in four minutes, and how judges score content, style and strategy. Useful for students preparing and parents reading a ballot.

What a reply speech does

Each team gives one 4-minute **reply speech**, delivered by its first or second speaker. The Opposition replies first and the Proposition last. Replies give a bird's-eye view of the debate: what the big clashes were, how the cases compare, and why your side won. No POIs are allowed, and no new material. A new example is not counted as new if it is consistent with the examples your team has already used.

A useful shape

Open with one sentence naming the central question of the debate. Then walk through two or three clashes. Close with a one-line verdict.

Four-minute reply template

TIME	PART	SAMPLE WORDING
0:00 to 0:30	Framing	"This debate came down to one question: ..."
0:30 to 1:30	Clash one	"They said X. We said Y. Here is why Y wins."
1:30 to 2:30	Clash two	Same pattern, with a comparison
2:30 to 3:30	Clash three or what the other side dropped	"They never answered ..."
3:30 to 4:00	Verdict	"For these reasons, we are proud to propose/oppose."

If the other side introduced significant new material late, the NSDA guidance suggests pointing out that it was new and why that was a strategic problem, instead of rebutting it as if it were fair game.

The three judging criteria

CRITERION	WEIGHT	QUESTION IT ANSWERS
Content	40%	WHAT was said: quality of logic, evidence, examples, refutation, and answers to POIs
Style	40%	HOW it was said: language, voice, body language, tone, demeanor
Strategy	20%	WHY it was said: understanding the key issues, prioritising, managing time, taking POIs

Style is not about accents or language proficiency. No single style is best; judges are told to reward whatever works for that speaker. Notes should help the speech, not block contact with the audience.

- ## Reading a ballot

NOTES

Book a free consultation. The short intake takes about a minute and opens right away.

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