

Debating League
1925-26
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ANNOUNCEMENT
1925-1926

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MELVIN A. BRANNON, Chancellor of the University

The University of Montana is constituted under the provisions of Chapter 92 of the Laws of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly, approved March 14, 1913 (effective July 1, 1913).

The general control and supervision of the University are vested in the State Board of Education. The Chancellor of the University is the chief executive officer. For each of the component institutions there is a local executive board.

Montana State Board of Education

JOHN E. ERICKSON, Governor.....	Ex-Officio, President
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The University comprises the following institutions, schools and departments:

The State University, Missoula

Established February 17, 1893, and consisting of

The College of Arts and Sciences	The School of Business Administration
The School of Law	The Summer Quarter
The School of Pharmacy	The Biological Station (Flathead Lake)
The School of Forestry	The Public Service Division
The School of Journalism	The Graduate Division
The School of Music	

Charles H. Clapp, President

The State College, Bozeman

Established February 16, 1893, and consisting of

The College of Agriculture	The School of Music
The College of Engineering	The Summer Quarter
The College of Applied Science	The Secondary School of Agriculture
The College of Household and Industrial Arts	The Agricultural Experiment Station
	The Agricultural Extension Service

Alfred Atkinson, President

The State School of Mines, Butte

Established February 17, 1893

Course in Mining Engineering	Course in Metallurgical Engineering
Bureau of Mines and Metallurgy	

George W. Craven, President

The State Normal College, Dillon

Established February 23, 1893, and consisting of

The Two-years' Course	The Teachers' Service Division	The Summer Quarter
	Sheldon E. Davis, President	

For publications and detailed information concerning the different schools and colleges address the president of the particular institution concerned. Communications intended for the Chancellor of the University should be addressed to the State Capitol, Helena, Montana.

Montana Public High School
Debating League

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

TheHigh School
hereby applies for membership in the MONTANA PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE for the year 1925-
1926.

Enclosed is { draft
check for one dollar (\$1.00) in pay-
postal order
ment of the membership fee.

.....
Principal.

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Montana Public High School Debating League

Summary of Provisions

GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. All accredited four-year public high schools are eligible for membership in the Montana Public High School Debating League.

II. Applications for membership in the League must be mailed to the President by October 15th. The membership fee is one dollar.

III. Principals shall submit to the President by October 15th lists of judges for the district debates. For the full statement of this important provision, passed May, 1918, see Constitution, Article VII, Section 2 (a).

IV. The postcard vote by League members in November, 1921, favored one official question for both district and state contest. (See page 12, Great Falls meeting.)

V. Other matters pertaining to the conduct of the League will be found noted in the Constitution (pp. 23-26) of the Bulletin.

PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL DEBATES

At the annual meeting May 9th, 1924, it was voted to establish the office of district director with the view to securing more local control. It will be the duty of the district director, with the cooperation of the principals of the schools in his district and if necessary, of the League president, to arrange all the pairings and schedules in his district. The League president will appoint the district directors after the entries for the debating year are made. It was suggested that a debate tournament week might help to solve our difficult problems of long journeys and heavy expenses and scarce judges. This, however, must be decided by each district for itself.

PROVISIONS FOR THE FINAL DEBATE

(Adopted by the High School Debating League May 13, 1921, and amended May 9, 1924.)

I. When each of the districts has determined its champion team, the districts will be paired again, by the League President, for one round of contests to be held in one of the towns of the contesting teams or in a neutral town agreed upon by the contestants.

II. The four winning inter-district teams will be sent to Missoula in Interscholastic week for the final debate. The teams coming to Missoula will consist of two or three men each according to the vote of the schools concerned. These teams will be paired by lot on the day of the contest and given sides of the question. The debaters are not to confer with their coaches after the pairing off.

III. The four teams will debate in one evening and the judges will select from the four competing teams, the one as winner which does the best debating work as a team, and the four individual speakers that rank highest for individual honors.

IV. Each speaker in the final contest will be limited to eight minutes for constructive debate and six minutes for rebuttal.

V. The second set of teams shall not hear those that debate before them.

VI. The Interscholastic Committee of the University will pay the railroad fare to Missoula and return (meals and sleeper not included) for a total of three contestants (whether in declamation, athletics, or debate) from any school whose debate team having won an inter-district debate, competes in the interscholastic debate at Missoula.

Prizes and Awards

Prizes and awards are annually given to the winners in the final state contest.

1. A souvenir cup, offered by the University of Montana, will be awarded to the winner of the first place in the final debate contest. The high school winning the cup shall hold it until the time set for the next regular final contest, at which time the cup shall be returned to the University, so that it may be given to the high school that next wins the state championship. Any school winning the cup three times shall become the permanent owner of it.

2. A gold medal, given by former Governor Joseph M. Dixon, will be awarded to the best debater in the final contest.

3. Books, offered in memory of Judge Hiram Knowles, will be given the winners of second, third, and fourth places in the final debate contest.

4. A gold medal, given by the University, will be awarded for the best essay written by a member of the graduating class of the accredited state high schools.

5. A scholarship in the State University, given by John M. Keith, amounting to \$100, will be awarded to one of the high school debaters participating in the final contest of the High School Debating League, the choice to be made by the president of the University. The scholarship will be paid to the student in two installments, one at the beginning of the first semester, the other at the beginning of the second semester, of the first year of his enrollment in the University.

Applications for the scholarship must be made to the President of the University at the earliest practicable date before June 1 of each year. Each application should be accompanied by credentials showing the amount and quality of the high school work done by the student, and by recommendations showing the applicant's promise of future usefulness. Only members of the graduating classes will be eligible.

Debating in 1924-1925

THE STATE DISTRICT CONTESTS

Fifty-three high schools entered the League in 1924-1925 and were grouped in eight districts. The same question was debated in both district and final contests (see General Provisions, Montana Public High School Debating League, Section IV): The United States should become a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Schedule of District Debates 1924-1925.

District I.

1. Plains-Thompson Falls
2. Whitefish-Kalispell
3. Libby-bye

District II.

1. Stevensville-Hamilton
2. Missoula-Philipsburg.

District III.

1. Dillon-Butte
2. Virginia City-Whitehall
3. Belgrade-Wilsall

District IV.

1. Big Timber-Laurel
3. Belfry-Bearcreek
3. Bridger-Edgar
4. Fromberg-Worden
5. Billings-Hardin

District V.

1. Roundup-Ryegate
2. Forsyth-Rosebud
3. Wibaux-Terry
4. Miles City-Jordan

District VI.

1. Lambert-Richey
2. Reserve-Culbertson
3. Glasgow-Hinsdale
4. Saco-Harlem

District VII.

1. Conrad-Browning
2. Augusta-Simms
3. Big Sandy-bye

District VIII

1. Harlowton-White Sulphur Spgs.
2. Judith Gap-Lewistown
3. Denton-Geraldine
4. Grass Range-bye

DISTRICT WINNERS

1. Whitefish
2. Missoula
3. Butte
4. Fromberg
5. Forsyth
6. Richey
7. Big Sandy
8. Lewistown

In the inter-district contests the winners were paired as follows:

1. Whitefish vs. Big Sandy
2. Missoula vs. Butte
3. Fromberg vs. Lewistown
4. Forsyth vs. Richey

The winners in the inter-district were: Big Sandy, Butte, Lewistown and Forsyth.

FINAL STATE CONTEST

The final contest was held at the State University in Missoula on the evening of May 13th.

Lewistown won the state championship and the right to hold the University cup during 1925-1926.

The individual awards made by the judges were as follows:

To Margaret Dewey, Butte, the Dixon gold medal for the best individual debating in the final contest.

To Richard Manning, Lewistown, Loleta Jackson, Forsyth, and Jack Rabbit, Butte, the Hiram Knowles prize books.

The Keith scholarship has been awarded to Margaret Dewey, Butte.

History of the Debating League

The League was organized at the University of Montana on May 17, 1905, with Professor J. S. Snoddy as its first president. The first interscholastic debate in Montana was held on December 21, 1905, at Red Lodge; the Carbon County High School and the Columbus High School debated the question, "Resolved, That Greece has contributed as much civilization as has Rome." The regular series of high school debates under the formally adopted constitution was held for the first time during 1906-7. The questions debated since then, the district champion teams, and the members of the state champion team are indicated below.

1906-1907—All railroads in the United States should be owned and operated by the federal government.

District champions: Hamilton, Flathead County, Billings, Park County.

State Champion: Hamilton, Grace Lewis, Monica Shannon, Annabell Robertson.

1907-1908—Boards of arbitration with compulsory power should be established to settle disputes between labor and capital.

District champions: Missoula County, Broadwater County, Columbus, Park County.

State champion: Missoula County, George Stone, Florence Mathews, Edward Barker.

1908-1909—The United States should maintain an offensive as well as defensive navy.

District champions: Forsyth, Helena, Butte, Jefferson County.

State champion: Forsyth, Newton Gilliland, Mildred Eckles, Geneva Montford.

1909-1910—United States senators should be elected by a direct vote of the people.

District champions: Jefferson County, Butte, Choteau, Fergus County.

State champion: Jefferson County, Lulu Tuttle, Walter Wilson, Mildred Bines.

1910-1911—American cities should adopt the commission form of city government.

District champions: Forsyth, Powell County, Flathead County, Gallatin County.

State champion: Forsyth, Dennis O'Brien, Leslie Finck, Bernice Wise.

1911-1912—The movement of organized labor for a closed shop should receive the support of public opinion.

District champions: Fergus County, Broadwater County, Flathead County, Gallatin County

State champion: Gallatin County, Llewellyn Luce, Edna Mathew, Sallie Clark.

1912-1913—The government should own and operate the telegraph.

District champions: Forsyth, Billings, Missoula County, Gallatin County.

State champion: Gallatin County, Llewellyn Luce, Lee Park, Don Langhor.

1913-1914—The American government should take immediate steps toward granting independence to the Philippines, such independence to become a fact by 1920, and to be guaranteed by the United States for a period of ten years thereafter. (For the inter-district and final debate.)

District champions: Missoula County, Butte, Custer County, Columbus, Gallatin County.

State champion: Gallatin County, James Stotesbury, Lee Park, Llewellyn Luce.

1914-1915—Immigration to the United States should be further restricted by an educational test according to the terms of the Burnett Bill, vetoed by President. (For the second series and the final debate.)

Champions in the first series: Park County, Roundup, Flathead County, Missoula County.

State champion: Flathead County, Melinda Alexander, Daniel Korn, Elsie Price.

1915-1916—The United States should own and operate all interstate railroads. (For the final debate.)

Winners in the local contests: Billings, Broadwater County, Butte, Fergus County, Flathead County, Gallatin County, Hysham, Polson.

State champion: Butte, Tom Brockway.

1916-1917—The United States should adopt a policy of ship subsidy for developing our merchant marine. (For the district debate.)

Winners in the district contests: Flathead County, Missoula County, Butte, Billings, Shelby, Hysham, Culbertson.

No final debate was held.

1917-1918—The program of the American League to Enforce Peace should be adopted by international agreement at the close of the present war. (For the final debate.)

District champions: Lincoln County, District No. 28, Belgrade, Fergus County, Chinook, Columbus, Hysham, Glasgow.

State champion: Glasgow, Olive McKay.

1918-1919—After the war the government should continue its operation of the railroads of the country with the ultimate aim of owning them. (For the final debate.)

District champions: Flathead County, Ronan, Virginia City, Roundup, Chinook, Fromberg, Wibaux County, Glasgow.

State champion: Glasgow, Olive McKay.

1919-1920—The state and federal governments should pass a minimum wage law affecting all types of employment. (For the final debate.)

District champions: Shelby, Powell County, Hysham, Joliet, Whitefish, Harlowton, Culbertson, Missoula County.

State champion: Whitefish, John K. Sullivan.

1920-1921—The several states shall establish courts similar to the Kansas Industrial Court for the judicial settlement of capital and labor disputes. (For the final debate.)

District champions: Augusta, Butte, Columbus, Corvallis, Flathead County, Hedges, Scobey, Wibaux County.

State champion: Scobey, Ray E. Clark.

1921-1922—The federal government should enact legislation to exclude rigidly Japanese immigration from the United States.

Inter-district champions: Laurel, Roundup, Shelby, Scobey.

State champion: Roundup.

Champion individual debater, Dorothy Chaffin, Roundup.

1922-1923—The several states should enact unemployment insurance laws.

District champions: Kalispell, Wibaux, Anaconda, Harlowton, Hardin, Fergus County (Lewistown) and Scobey.

State champion: Fergus County (Lewistown).

Champion individual debater, John Kidneigh, Lewistown.

1923-1924—The federal government should adopt the cabinet-parliamentary form of government.

District champions: Butte, Kalispell, Willsall, Moore, Billings, Miles City, Big Sandy, Saco.

Inter-district champions: Butte, Wilsall, Billings, Big Sandy.

State champion: Billings.

Champion individual debater: Everett Patterson, Billings.

1924-1925—The United States should become a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

District champions: Whitefish, Missoula County, Butte, Fromberg, Forsyth, Richey, Big Sandy, Lewistown.

Inter-district champions: Big Sandy, Forsyth, Butte, Lewistown.

State champion: Lewistown.

Champion individual debater, Margaret Dewey, Butte.

The University Library can lend most of the material listed in the bibliography. Bound magazines cannot be sent out but if articles desired are in magazines which are not bound these can be obtained. A deposit fee of four dollars should be sent to the Librarian with the first request for material. This fee will be refunded, less postage and fines for mutilation or loss of books, when the borrower no longer desires material.

Proposition for 1925-1926

Resolved that the President's Cabinet should include a Secretary of Education.

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Package Library Service

The University Library is forming in a tentative way a series of package libraries, to which, during the year, it will add new subjects as rapidly as possible. These libraries consist mainly of clippings from metropolitan newspapers. Magazines containing related material are to be found in most city libraries; in some cases the University can lend them. These libraries may be obtained by application to Miss Gertrude Buckhous, University Librarian. A deposit fee of \$4.00 for each library desired should accompany such application. This fee will be refunded, less postage and fines for mutilation or for delay in returning. Each library may be retained two weeks. Libraries are now ready on the following subjects:

Americanization	I. W. W.
Balkans	Insurance Against Unemployment
Bill-Board Nuisance	Irish Question
Child Welfare	Japanese Question
City Managing	Latin America
Commission Government	Merchant Marine
Community Centers	Military Training
Consumers' Co-operative Societies	Mine Taxation
Co-operation	Parent-Teachers' Association
County Government	Philippine Independence
Conservation	Prisons
Drama	Profit Sharnig
Employment Bureau	Public Health
Equal Suffrage	Rural Banks and Credit
Federal Incorporation	Russia
Foreign Relations	Sabotage
Foreign Trade	Short Ballot
Free Speech	Single Tax
Government Ownership and Control	Strikes
Immigration	Teachers' Unions
Income Tax	Vocational Guidance
	Workmen's Compensation

Montana Public High School Debating League

PRÉSIDENT

H. M. Keele (University of Montana)

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON DEBATE

H. M. Keele

Edmund L. Freeman

W. E. Maddock

COMMITTEE OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Payne Templeton, Kalispell

D. S. Williams, Bozeman

Fred W. Graff, Laurel

Constitution and By-Laws

PREAMBLE

The object of this league is improvement in debate among the students in the high schools of the state of Montana.

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be known as the Montana Public High School Debating League.

ARTICLE II

Debating Districts

For the best interests of the contesting high schools of the state they shall be grouped on the basis of convenience and expense. The grouping for any year shall be by the President and the Committee of High School Principals. This grouping shall be final and shall be announced to the several schools prior to November 1.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Any public high school in Montana which has been accredited by the State University may become a member of this League by applying to the President of the League.

Sec. 2. All schools seeking admission for any particular year must register statement of that fact with the President of the Debating League before October 15 of that year.

ARTICLE IV

Contests

Section 1. **Local State or District Contests.** For local or district contests, the teams representing the high schools shall be paired by the President of the Debating League. The debates for the districts shall occur between the first of November and the first of March. In case more than one series of debates is necessary in any district, the time limit for each series shall be determined by the President and the Committee of High School Principals. (Revision of May 9, 1918.)

Sec. 2. **Local or District Representatives to the State Contest.** The time and method of selecting the local representatives from the winning high school shall be left to the local high school.

Sec. 3. **Final Contest.** The final contest held among representatives of the teams winning in the state local contests shall occur between the fifteenth of April and the Wednesday of Interscholastic week at the State University or at some place in Missoula selected by the President of the League.

Sec. 4. Any school not ready to debate at the time specified in the constitution shall forfeit the debate.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the League shall be a president, a League committee of three high school principals, and a University committee on debate.

Sec. 2. There shall be selected by the President a committee of three principals from the League high schools to co-operate with him in matters relative to the work of the League.

Sec. 3. The President shall be a member of the faculty of the State University.

It shall be the duty of the President—

(a). To preside at the annual meeting, and for the final contest, and, when necessary, to call meetings of the Committee of High School Principals.

(b). To act as chairman of the University Committee on Debate.

(c). To pair the contesting high school teams on the basis of convenience and expense. If in the pairing of these teams the principals of any two schools should not agree upon the place of meeting within one week after their schools have been paired, the President shall appoint some one to determine the place of meeting by casting lots.

(d). To co-operate with the principals of schools that are to be represented in the final contest in making arrangements for that contest.

(e). To prepare and have printed each year, before October 1 (at the expense of the University), a bulletin containing the latest revision of the constitution and by-laws, the names and addresses of the officers, and such other matters as, in his judgment, may be helpful to the members of the League.

Sec. 4. The University Committee on Debate shall consist of the President of the Debating League and two other members of the faculty to be chosen by the President.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to co-operate with the President in matching the schools of the League in series, upon the basis of convenience and expense whenever called upon to do so.

ARTICLE VI

The Debaters

Section 1. The debaters shall be undergraduate students of the schools which they represent, and shall have passing grades to date in at least three full subjects (i. e., subjects that require at least four recitations a week) that they are taking at the time of the contest.

Sec. 2. No student shall be eligible to take part in a League contest who has already debated for four years in the League contests of the state.

Sec. 3. No student shall be eligible to debate in any League contest who was more than twenty-one years of age at the beginning of the semester in which the debate occurs. Two weeks before the first debate the principals of the high schools in the League shall certify to the President as to the eligibility of their debaters.

Sec. 4. The team that shall represent any League high school shall be selected by that school in any manner agreed upon by the principals, teachers, and students of that school.

Sec. 5. At all contests the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

Sec. 6a. At the local, state or district contests the time and order of the speeches shall be as follows:

1st speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes (introduction and direct argument).

2nd speaker, negative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).

2nd speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).

2nd speaker, negative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).

3rd speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).

3rd speaker, negative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation)

- 1st speaker, negative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
- 1st speaker, affirmative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
- 2nd speaker, negative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
- 2nd speaker, affirmative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
- 3rd speaker, negative, 5 minutes (rebuttal and summary).
- 3rd speaker, affirmative, 5 minutes (rebuttal and summary).

No new argument allowed in the last six speeches.

The order of the speakers on either side in rebuttal may differ from that in the direct speeches.

Sec. 6b. Debaters shall not read their speeches in either the direct or rebuttal speeches; they may, however, use notes set down on sheets not larger than three by five inches in size.

Sec. 7. In case any two teams shall fail to agree on choice of sides within one week after notification by the director, they shall report to the President of the League, who shall immediately determine choice of sides by lot, and advise the two principals. In the manner of entertainment, alternation shall be the rule.

Sec. 8. Immediately preceding each debate the instructions to judges shall be read by the chairman to the judges and the audience.

ARTICLE VII

The Judges

Section 1. At each contest there shall be a board of three judges, who shall be selected on the basis of capability and impartiality to the schools competing in such contests. (Note Amendment 8.)

Sec. 2. Selection of Judges—

(a). **Local, State or District Contests.** At the time of filing of the official entry blank of the school for the year, each principal shall send to the President a list of judges. The final date of submission of lists of judges shall be October 15th. This list with those added by the President shall be submitted to the principals for approval on or before November 1st. The approved list, which must be returned on or before November 15th, shall constitute the official list of judges for the year. By mutual agreement schools may select judges not on the official list. (Revision of May 9, 1918.)

The principal of the school at which the debating is to be held shall notify the judges of their appointments and make all arrangements relative to their meeting at the place of debate except for provisions under Article IX of this Constitution.

(b). **Final Contest.** The judges shall be selected by the University Committee on Debate.

Sec. 3. Instructions.

- (a). During the debate the judges shall sit apart from one another.
- (b). They shall base their decision on the merits of the individual debaters, not on the merits of the question.
- (c). Each judge, at the conclusion of the contest, without consultation with any other judge, shall rank the speakers. The grading of the speakers by the judges shall fall between 50% and 100%. The judges shall seal their decisions in envelopes and deliver them to the collecting officer.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings and Elections

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held at the University, at the time of the Interscholastic Meet. At this meeting, the President shall be elected to serve for a period of one year, or until his successor is elected. Each League High School shall be entitled to one vote. (Note Amendment 9.)

ARTICLE IX

Expenses

Section 1. At the local or district state contests the entertaining high school shall pay—

- (a). The expenses of the judges.
- (b). The hotel bills and railway mileage of the visiting teams (the three debaters) and one other person (chaperon or coach).

If, however, the two teams taking part in the contest shall find it more convenient or less expensive to meet at some half-way point, the two schools which are represented by these teams shall share proportionally the expense, or make some special arrangements for defraying the expenses for that particular debate.

Sec. 2. At the final contest the University shall pay—

- (a). The expenses of the judges.
- (b). The hotel bills of the contestants.
- (c). The railway mileage of the contestants; provided that a sufficient amount of the entertainment fund of the final contest should remain after paying the expenses of the entertainment, and the incidental expenses incurred by the President during the year.

ARTICLE X

Amndments

This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any annual meeting of a majority of the league high schools present. But no school shall have more than one vote.

1. Unless the questions shall have been determined at the annual meeting of the State Debating League, the President shall submit to the high school principals, before the publication of the bulletin, a list of six questions for debate. The League president shall select the question, being guided by this postcard vote. The question selected, with bibliography, shall be printed in the bulletin.

2. For local or district contests the statement of the questions for debate may be changed with the consent of the teams concerned. But the team desiring the change must restate the question and secure the consent of the other team.

3. It shall be considered dishonorable for one school to visit the debates of another school when these two schools are likely to meet on the same question.

4. It shall be considered dishonorable for any debater, in any manner, to plagiarize his speech.

5. It shall be considered dishonorable for any teacher or principal to assist debaters in any way except to direct them in the search for material, to train them in effective delivery and assist them in the organization of material.

6. Each high school in the league shall pay an annual fee of one dollar for current expenses.

7. Charts, if any are used, shall be removed at the conclusion of the speech which they were intended to supplement. Opponents shall be permitted the use of these charts if they so wish.

8. The schools of any district or any two competing schools may by mutual agreement use one judge instead of three.

9. A second annual meeting of the members of the League shall be held at the time and place of the State Teachers' Association, at which time any business affairs may be discussed and passed upon.

Instructions to Judges

The following sections from the Constitution of the Montana Public High School Debating League sum up the important matters to which judges should attend. A few explanatory notes are added in parenthesis.

VI. 5. At all contests the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

(It is far easier to deliver a memorized speech than to talk "extemporaneously" from notes. High school debating is valuable largely to the degree that it teaches young people to think and to express their thoughts effectively. Debaters who do "speak from their feet" should be given precedence over those who have merely memorized declamations. "Extemporaneous" speaking does not preclude, of course, the most thorough preparation. Judges will do much toward raising the standards of debating if they will distinguish between declamation and speaking from the floor.)

6a. No new argument is allowed in any of the six last speeches.

(New evidence may well be introduced into these rebuttal speeches, but new arguments are forbidden.)

VII. 1. At each contest there shall be three judges who shall be selected on the basis of capability and impartiality.

3a. During the debate the judges shall sit apart from one another.

3b. They shall base their decisions on the merits of the debate, not on the merits of the question.

(This is necessary in the very nature of academic debating. Sides are often assigned by lot. The problem before the judges is not to decide which side is right, but rather which team has presented the truth on its side most effectively and persuasively. The "Suggestions to Judges" given below, are intended as further assistance in the application of this section.)

3c. Each judge at the conclusion of the contest, without consultation with any other judge, shall write on a card the word "affirmative" or "negative," seal it in an envelope, and deliver it to the presiding officer, who shall open the envelope in the sight of the two leaders and announce to the audience the decision.

SUGGESTIONS TO JUDGES

(To be read before each debate)

The purpose of these suggestions is to make clear to both judges and debaters what is expected from them, and thus to assist the judges in the performance of their task, often difficult and perplexing, and the debaters in their preparation and practice.

The distinction made between "argument" and "presentation" is purely academic, but it is necessary and important. "A debate is not a declamatory contest; neither is it a dry, uninteresting statement of quotations, facts and figures. A good scholastic debate is a strong, effective presentation of a clear and logical thought upon the platform with opponent. A judge should carefully weigh both excellence in thinking and excellence in speaking; he should award his decision to the team which shows the most effective combination of the two in vital give-and-take discussion." Of course, skillful thinking is more important than skillful speaking, and should be so rated.

A. Argument

The matter of these pages is largely taken from the bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, "How to Judge a Debate." These pages have not been officially adopted by the Debating League, and schools are free to modify them as they please.

1. Each member of the teams should show general knowledge of both sides of the question.
2. The debaters should confine themselves to a few main issues of the question, avoiding the unimportant, so that the debate falls into a few sharply marked divisions and is not a mere jumble of statements.
3. They should define a clear-cut, intelligent interpretation of the question early in the debate. If each side contends for a different interpretation of the question, the wise judge will agree with the side which upholds the simple intended meaning, the meaning which an intelligent man attempting to arrive at the real issues, would give to the question. Far-fetched, technical, quibbling interpretations should be discouraged.
4. Rebuttal should be confined to the main issues and may well be scattered through the debate. A marked difference in the style of the rebuttal speeches and those of direct argument is a sign of poor preparation.

B. Presentation

1. A vigorous, aggressive conversational style is best.
2. Grammar and diction should uniformly be good, but occasional slips, often indicative of extemporaneous speaking, should not be penalized.
3. Gestures should be simple and natural. It is better to have none than be artificial.
4. The signals to cease should be scrupulously attended to; every speaker should stop at once, even if in the middle of a sentence.
5. Almost the greatest confession of weakness is to run out of things to say and stop before the bell.
6. The greatest elements in effective presentation are earnestness and clear thinking; these may even overbalance roughness, awkwardness, and inexperience.
7. Debate is a contest, and the preference should be given to the team who actually meet the arguments of the opponents, who handle their notes with a familiarity and command, who show, in short, that their rebuttal is a matter of present thought and not of memorizing.