



Promoting Respectful Behavior in the OCDL

The Orange County Debate League (OCDL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to student education in the sport of debate. For 16 years, the OCDL has pursued this mission by hosting regular debate tournaments, increasing opportunities for learning through the expansion of participating schools and students, and fostering a spirit of education in addition to competition. To ensure OCDL debaters continue to partake in healthy competition, the Board of Directors hopes to underscore the importance of respectful behavior at tournaments.

Some examples of respectful behavior include:

- Greeting the judge and competitors at the start of each round.
- Shaking hands with the judge and competitors after each round.
- Thanking the judge after each round.

Some examples of disrespectful behavior include:

- Challenging the judge's authority during or after a round.
- Engaging in disruptive heckling. Heckling that becomes repetitive or prevents a speaker from making their argument is considered disruptive.
- Critiquing or challenging the judge's decision or scores after delivery.

Policy change: Starting January 2025, a checkbox will be added to ballots for judges to flag particularly disrespectful behavior. If a judge checks this box, the OCDL Director of Judging will follow up with the judge for further discussion. The OCDL Director will also bring the matter to the attention of the debater's coach.

The OCDL rubric for Presentation addresses respectful behavior. To be eligible for the 5 point category, a debater: "Displays respectful demeanor before, during and after the debate." A student with the disrespectful behavior box checked cannot receive a Presentation score of 5 or greater.