

Lincoln-Douglas Timekeeping Scheme

The timekeeper's role in L-D Debate is indeed important.

Note: A maximum of three (3) minutes of preparation time per debater is allowed *during* the course of the debate. (In addition to concerns of fairness and following the rules of the contest, close attention to this maximum helps keep the contest as a whole moving along.)

Constructive "half" of the debate

Affirmative speaker	6 MINUTES
Cross-examination by Negative speaker	3 MINUTES
Negative speaker	7 MINUTES
Cross-examination by Affirmative speaker	3 MINUTES

Rebuttal "half" of the debate

Affirmative speaker	4 MINUTES
Negative speaker	6 MINUTES
Affirmative speaker	3 MINUTES

The timekeeper should announce to the debaters prior to the contest the types of time signals to be used. Either time cards, hand signals, or automatic timers may be used.

If time cards or hand signals are used, the *time remaining* should be indicated.

When a speaker uses all of the allotted time, in either the constructive or rebuttal speeches, the timekeeper should so indicate. ["Your allotted time has expired."—or something to that effect.]

A timekeeper is provided for convenience. The primary responsibility for staying within the time limits lies with the debater.

Overtime may count against the debater at the discretion of the judge. [The timekeeper should be aware that the judge might be challenged on this, so the timekeeper should remember well enough in which debate it was that a debater abused the time. It is not the timekeeper's job to tell the judge—unless he or she asks—to what extent the time has been abused. The judge should be as aware of said time allotment abuse as is the debater.]

Excessive abuse of the time allotments may result in disqualification at the discretion of the contest director [in consultation with the meet director].

[Such an incident must not be the topic of conversation at anytime; the judge and the contest director will consider the event. L-D-ers and their coaches listen closely to all hallway conversations. Do not discuss individual rounds even in the "breakrooms."]