

Tips for Virtual Tournament

The start of the new season looks a little different this year. Breakout rooms have replaced classrooms, and teammates and opponents sit miles apart from each other. Virtual Events are a unique opportunity for both new and returning debaters to gain experience and connect with other debaters in the league. Here are some tips to create the best tournament experience possible!

1. Complete a Tech Check

It is now more important than ever that your Wi-fi works properly and your devices don't run into any issues. To ensure that no technological difficulties arise when you are giving a speech, try out different setups before the tournament and figure out what allows you to best transition between giving speeches, flowing and possible timing yourself. Familiarize yourself with debating virtually during your school's practices, and check with others on the call to see if you are lagging or cutting out. If you do all of this beforehand, you save yourself from extra stress on tournament day and ensure that nothing distracts from your performance.

2. Keep Track of Feedback

As you should do in every tournament, take notes on your judge's constructive feedback. Keeping these comments organized in one place will allow you to refer to them consistently as you prepare for future tournaments, which is one of the best ways that you can improve your performance. Have a paper and pen out or keep a document open before your disclosures!

3. Ask Questions!

Don't fall prey to the dreaded silence of Zoom. Your judges are solely there to help you, so after rounds, if you have any questions, please ask. This information will most likely help all of the other debaters and make everyone else more comfortable to ask their questions as well.

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Thanks Vivian!