

RUNNING A stop-start ROUND

Why should I do it?

Stop-start rounds are done to cultivate skill with the goal of allowing the student to taste success and leap in skill - in the round.

When do I do it?

Stop whenever you see an opportunity for someone to improve in skill. Point it out and let them do it over again.

How do I do it?

Stop abruptly. Don't wait for them to finish a thought or end their speech. Cut them off. It brings the right shock value and lets them know where something went wrong.

Stop at least 3-4 times in a round. It should be a conversation between you (the judge) and the students. Don't let them wander off into "debate land" - knee deep in debate jargon.

Be firm. Debaters need to follow through with your critique, they shouldn't argue with it. They may choose to do something different in the future, but in the moment, they should be flexible and follow instructions.

7 PRINCIPLES OF Stop-Starting

WHAT SKILLS ARE YOU TRYING TO REFINE?
WHAT CAN I WATCH FOR TO HELP YOU IMPROVE?

Get Their Input

Before the round, ask debaters what they're working on. Write it down. Stop the round when you see an opportunity for the debater to improve those skills.

For more tips watch the Feedback Training Video

WHAT'S YOUR THESIS?

Varied Response Types

Push debaters to not just use one kind of response. They should be use many methods of refutation - logic, stats, maxims, etc.

Speaking Basics

Debaters should use the same speaking skills they use in delivering speeches. Their constructives and rebuttals should include hooks, roadmaps, conclusions and other basic speaking skills. We want them to be persuasive!

CAN I SEE YOUR FLOW?

Listening Skills

Stopping a round is not only for the benefit of the speaker. Stop the round to look at the flows of the debaters back at the table. See how well they were listening.

Ask them about the responses they're preparing to see what they're thinking. If necessary, allow them some prep time to catch up.

Strategic Thinking

Ask debaters about the importance of what's been said. You want them to be able to point out what matters most in the round and why. They need to be able to prioritize arguments and focus on the most important ones.

SO WHAT
MATTERS
MOST?

Confusion & 4-pt Refutation

If you're confused at any point, stop the round. If you got lost on one of the points of refutation (Identify, Claim, Prove, Impact) stop and ask for clarification.

Team Dynamics

In Team Policy, make sure partners are setting each other up in CX and following through with the argument if their partner did set them up. Stop the round if there is a lack of cohesion.