

## Connecticut Middle School Debate League Timers' Instructions

Seat the PROP team to your right and the judge's RIGHT and the OPP team to your LEFT. Ask debaters to sit in speaking order with the first speaker sitting furthest away from you and the judge.

1. Explain time signals to debaters. Every speech is allowed 15 seconds grace after time is up.
  - a. 2 fingers for 2 minutes left
  - b. 1 finger for 1 minute left
  - c. the letter c for 30 seconds left
  - d. hand flat for the beginning of grace period.
  - e. 5 fingers for 5 seconds of grace period left
2. Start timing when the speaker begins speaking.
3. Stop the clock if someone asks a Point of Clarification (POC). Resume after the POC conversation is finished.
4. Points of Information – POIs
  - a. Time does not stop for POIs.
  - b. The first and last minute of Constructive Speeches are protected time - POIs may not be offered.
  - c. During Constructive Speeches, clap or knock on the desk at 1 minute and 4 minutes to indicate when protected time ends and starts again.
  - d. POIs are not permitted during Rebuttal Speeches.
  - e. If a debater rises during protected time, say “protected time” and he or she should sit down again. Do not stop the clock.
  - f. Record how many POIs each debater offered and answered in the chart.
5. Indicate to the speaker how much time he or she has remaining according to signals in Step 1.
6. Say “time’s up” when the 15 second grace period is up. The judge will stop flowing and the debater should stop speaking.
7. Prep time
  - a. Wait until the speaker has returned to his or her seat before beginning prep time.
  - b. Tell debaters when prep time is beginning.
  - c. Always give prep time – even if debaters say they don’t want it or need it.
8. Record the speaker’s times in the chart.

| Speech                            | Length | Actual | Accepted POI? | Offered POI? |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> PROP Constructive | 5 min  |        |               |              |
| Prep time                         | 1 min  |        |               |              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> OPP Constructive  | 5 min  |        |               |              |
| Prep time                         | 1 min  |        |               |              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> PROP Constructive | 5 min  |        |               |              |
| Prep time                         | 1 min  |        |               |              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> OPP Constructive  | 5 min  |        |               |              |
| NO PREP TIME HERE                 |        |        |               |              |
| OPP Rebuttal                      | 4 min  |        |               |              |
| Prep time                         | 1 min  |        |               |              |
| PROP Rebuttal                     | 4 min  |        |               |              |
| TOTAL                             | 32 min |        |               |              |