

WINTER 2008 PROJECT: TOURNAMENT OBSERVATION

Whether you are a competitor or an observer, you should make it a point to attend as many rounds as possible. This will provide several opportunities: exposure to original cuttings and interpretations; observation of powerful, as well as poor, speaking techniques; interpretations, oratories, cases and legislation unlike your own; ideas to integrate into your own performances and speeches; and what to do (or not to do) during competition.

When you have the opportunity, *observe events with which you are not familiar with or in which you have never competed* to expand your knowledge and understanding, or to provide insight into an event you may wish to try in the future. If possible, do not limit yourself to one event at every tournament – observing other events exposes you to different interpretations, techniques and information. It also helps you appreciate all competitors and events.

Do not waste time at tournaments. Even when you are not competing, take advantage of this “down time” to observe other competitors. Support your team members, observe break rounds, and critically observe performances.

RECORD THESE OBSERVATIONS (make detailed, specific comments regarding speeches and performances; consider what makes the performance successful or what can be improved or changed):

- Title, topic, value premise/side of argument
- Round (first, semi, final, etc.)
- Event
- Tournament location and date
- Specific observations of content, presentation, interpretation, etc. of the individual performance

YOU MUST RECORD OBSERVATIONS FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) PERFORMANCES.
Type your observations; include all necessary information (see above).

DUE DATE: Wednesday, March 26, 2008.