



CX, LD, PF: In-Round Evidence Violation Protest Checklist for Students

Use this form to guide your team through making an in-round evidence violation protest.

Event: ___ Policy ___ Lincoln Douglas ___ Public Forum

Before lodging the protest in round, consider:

___ Do you understand that in-round evidence violation protests are only for serious, ethical evidence violations? (Note: You always have the opportunity to ask a judge not to take opponents' evidence into account in their decision, rather than lodging a formal protest.)

___ Do you understand that in a formal protest, the judge(s) will examine the evidence to determine if a violation has occurred and will render an immediate decision?

___ Do you understand that in a formal protest, you will either win or lose the round based on the final decision of the judge(s)?

If the answer to the questions above is yes, **be prepared to identify the type of violation claimed** (refer to the complete definitions included in this document):

___ Distortion/misrepresentation (7.2.A)

___ Non-existent evidence (7.2.B)

___ Clipping (7.2.C)

___ Straw argument (7.2.D)

Be prepared to explain the nature of the violation:

If you are certain that a formal protest should be lodged, **take the following steps in round:**

1. Request that the judge stop the round, and notify them that you are making a formal evidence protest.
2. Draw the judge(s)' attention to the violation. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of an evidence rule. The team/individual alleging the violation of the evidence must articulate the specific violation.
3. The judge(s) will make a decision regarding the protest.
 - a. If the judge determines that the allegation is legitimate and an evidence violation has occurred, the team/individual committing the violation will be given the loss in the round. Other sanctions may apply as well.
 - b. If the judge determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round.
4. At the National Tournament, if you lose the protest, and thus, the round, you may appeal the judge(s)' decision to the Adjudication Panel by filling out the online protest form.

Possible Evidence Violations

7.2.A Distortion or misrepresentation: The textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g., **deleting 'not'**; **adding** the word **'not'**). Additionally, failure to bracket added words would be considered distortion of evidence.

7.2.B Non-existent evidence: The original source does not contain the cited evidence; paraphrased evidence lacks the original source to verify it; contestant has the evidence, but declines to provide it to their opponent upon request in a timely fashion.

7.2.C Clipping: The debater claims to have read the complete text of highlighted and/or underlined evidence when, in fact, the contestant skips or omits portions of evidence.

7.2.D Straw argument: Position or argumentative claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting or characterizing it. The contestant asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as his or her own position.

Note: A debater who acknowledges using a “straw argument” when verbally first read in the round would **not** be misrepresenting evidence. However, if the debater fails to acknowledge the use of a “straw argument” and their opponent questions the use of such an argument, then that debater has committed an evidence violation.