

# Frequently Asked Questions Concerning The Use of Computers in Texas UIL Debate

- 1) **Q:** *Should our squad use computers?*  
**A:** Only if students:
  - Students type faster than they write.
  - Students really desire to use one.
  - Note: All students still need to know how to flow in the traditional manner.
- 2) **Q:** *Will the tournament director have to check every computer to confirm students have removed or disabled wireless capability before the tournament begins?*  
**A:** No.
- 3) **Q:** *Is it the judge's responsibility to check computers?*  
**A:** No.
- 4) **Q:** *It is always the student's responsibility to disable internet capabilities in the round even if they are not reminded to do so?*  
**A:** Yes. If the debater decides to use a computer, it is the debater's responsibility to know and follow the guidelines, whether reminded by a tournament official or not.
- 5) **Q:** *Will there be information on how to implement this rule in District packets to assist District Directors?*  
**A:** Yes.
- 6) **Q:** *Can we use a printer? If so, when can it be utilized?*  
**A:** Yes. This is envisioned. Use common sense.
  - Get a silent printer as opposed to a noisy one.
  - Print:
    - **A)** Between speeches
    - **B)** During prep time
    - **C)** After round (only if necessary)
- 7) **Q:** *Will a team be allowed to use a "countdown timer" on their computer?*  
**A:** Yes. You can download them free. One source is <http://pbest.multics.org/timer/>. Some "sit" on top of an Excel spreadsheet.
- 8) **Q:** *Is PowerPoint allowed?*  
**A:** Not under the current guidelines.
- 9) **Q:** *Can we use "bluetooth" technology?*  
**A:** No.
- 10) **Q:** *Can **Google Desktop** software be used?*  
**A:** Yes. This software only searches files on your own computer, not the internet.
- 11) **Q:** *Is a scanner allowed?*  
**A:** No. Guidelines do not include this accessory.

- 12) **Q:** *The Constitution states all participants must present upon demand of debater evidence used in the round. With computers, how will we do this?*  
**A:** There are several options, such as using a flashdrive. However, your opponent may not be using a computer. We recommend that you give the evidence to the opposing team in hard copy and then get it back. (See question concerning printers in the round.)
- 13) **Q:** *How will computers impact delivery style?*  
**A:** Computers should not diminish the emphasis UIL places on communicative delivery.  
**A)** Debaters may not speak sitting behind the laptop screen, but are expect to stand at the front of the room to deliver a professional presentation.  
**B)** Debaters still need to be making at least fifty percent eye contact with the judge.  
**C)** UIL rule on presentation is real world. Professionals in the business world, lawyers in a courtroom, do not sit behind their computer screen. Eye contact with their audience is critical.
- 14) **Q:** *Can you revise a card with your computer?*  
**A:** No. Just as in a round without computers, this is a violation of ethics.
- 15) **Q:** *Can you use the recorder on your laptop to record the round from your computer?*  
**A:** No. C&CR prohibits recording.
- 16) **Q:** *May spectators use computers while watching a round?*  
**A:** No.

## **Recommendations**

- 1) Travel with an outlet strip.
- 2) Travel with a small, quiet printer.
- 3) Travel with an extra battery, if possible.
- 4) Carry an Expand-o file with:
  - A. A printed hard copy of your 1AC
  - B. Commonly used topicality arguments and case response briefs
  - C. Most commonly used disadvantages
- 5) Use common sense when printing during the round. See quest #6.
- 6) Know how to flow the traditional way.
- 7) Remember that presentation skills are important.

*We encourage you to view the PowerPoint entitled. "Using Computers in Debate" posted on the speech page of the official UIL website. Questions? Email Jana Riggins, State Speech & Debate Director, at [jriggins@uiltexas.org](mailto:jriggins@uiltexas.org).*