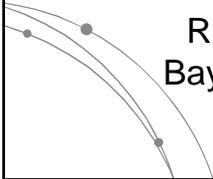


# Computers in Debate

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## The New UIL Computer Rule

### What is Allowed?

- Computer use for flowing & evidence retrieval
- Use of a printer

### What is Prohibited?

- No Internet wired or wireless connection; no emails or instant messaging

### Enforcement

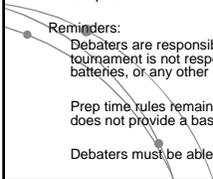
- Failure to disable a wireless connection: Forfeit round
- Receiving information during the round via a wired or wireless connection: Disqualification & forfeiture of all rounds

### Reminders:

Debaters are responsible for all equipment and arrangements: The tournament is not responsible to furnish outlets, extension cords, paper, batteries, or any other equipment to facilitate computer use.

Prep time rules remain in effect: A mechanical malfunction with the laptop does not provide a basis for suspending or extending prep time.

Debaters must be able to produce a copy of any evidence read in a round.



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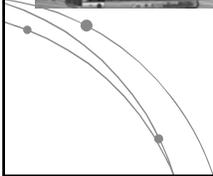
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## Why Allow Computers?



- Debate on the cutting edge
- Superior Storage
- Superior Retrieval
- Save Copy Costs
- Presentation Skills



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## Tubs Are the Worst

Travel Nightmare  
Dread Room Moves  
Hand Truck Too  
Where's the Brief  
Refiling Time



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## Digital Storage Is the Future

One tub = 2500 pages max  
(16 megabytes in MS Word)



One CD = 50 Tubs



One DVD = 288 Tubs

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## Copy Cost

One tub = 2500 pages



Cost to Copy (at 5 cents) =  
\$125.00

4 Tubs = \$500.00



Cost to Copy = 10 ¢

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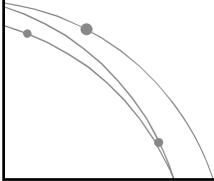
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## Where Can I Get a Timer?

Debate Countdown Timer  
<http://pbest.multics.org/timer/>



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## How Do Debaters Flow on Computers?

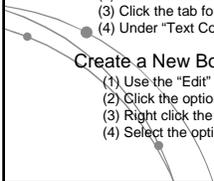
### Excel Spreadsheet

#### Enable Text Wrap:

- (1) Select whole worksheet (Control-A);
- (2) Select "Format" Menu: Cells;
- (3) Click the tab for "Alignment";
- (4) Under "Text Control" check the item labeled "Text Wrap"

#### Create a New Bottom Tab for Each Argument:

- (1) Use the "Edit" menu to select "Move or Copy Sheet"
- (2) Click the option to "Create a Copy";
- (3) Right click the tab name at the bottom of the screen";
- (4) Select the option to "Re-name"



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## How Do Debaters Flow on Computers?

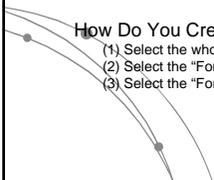
### Excel Spreadsheet

#### How Do You Carrier-Return Within the Same Cell?:

Hold down the "Alt" when you hit the "Enter" or "Return" key

#### How Do You Create A Different Color for a Column?:

- (1) Select the whole column by click on the Column Letter at Top
- (2) Select the "Format" menu option, then "Cells"
- (3) Select the "Font" tab and choose the color you desire



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## Should I Teach Students to Flow on the Computer?



First, all debaters must know how to flow the old fashioned way

Computer flowing is optimal if the following conditions are met:

- a. The student owns a laptop
- b. The student types faster than he/she writes

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## Smoothing the Transition to Computer Evidence Retrieval



A smooth transition requires more than one year.

Computer backfiles can't be scanned/digitized all at once.

Start now with encouraging debaters to turn in their assignments in digital (word processing) format.

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## Appropriate Goals for Computer Evidence Retrieval



All teams need paper copies of the most used files (their own affirmative case, commonly used topicality arguments & case response briefs, and the 2 or 3 most commonly used disadvantages).

The goal should be a one-tub limit for each team. Everything else can be made available on CD or DVD.

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## Learning the Difference Between Image Files and OCR (Optical Character Recognition)



When preparing digital copies of backfiles, the easiest is to use a scanner to create image files (pdf or jpg).

This, however, has two big disadvantages: (a) lots of memory; and (b) inability to fully search the documents

OCR scanning software (Omnipage Pro 15 is my favorite) is by far the best option.

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## Delivery Recommendations



The computer should be at the podium only if used for flowing

In that event, debaters must be taught to maintain a significant amount of eye contact in proper UIL delivery style

If the computer is used for evidence retrieval, briefs should be printed before they are utilized

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