

Deer Park Debate – Tournament Dress Code

Since a round can be won or lost based on the first impression, and since the first impression is based on your appearance and behavior, the following dress code will be followed by everyone on this team. Failure to follow this dress code will result in the loss of travel privileges.

Gentlemen:

1. Dress slacks, jacket and tie are required for each day of competition (CXer's may be a *bit* more casual – I will let you know when!)
 - a. Dark colors – black, gray, charcoal or navy blue (includes pants and coat) work best for suits. Khaki slacks and a blue blazer are OK.
 - b. Light colored, long sleeved shirts. White is the most professional, but some of you look better with more color. Blue, lavender, or other solids are best, but small stripes are acceptable. Ties must coordinate.
 - c. Shirts must be starched/ironed. Undershirts must be solid white!
2. Dark dress shoes or nice loafers. NO athletic shoes or sandals.
3. Dark socks. Make sure they match and are the same basic color as your pants or a little darker.
4. Hair needs to be neat and well groomed.

Ladies:

1. Dresses/skirts are required for most events (a suit is the best option). Tops or blouses should have a tailored appearance. Tailored pantsuits may be acceptable for some tournaments, while dress suits are the best attire for others. Skirt length should not distract from your presentation – for every appreciative young male judge, there are 3 conservative grannies who will drop you in a heartbeat!
 - a. Red, teal, blue, black, gray or plum are great. Avoid white, pink, or pastels.
 - b. No loud colors like hot pink or flaming yellow.
 - c. Avoid “little girl” dresses. Aim for the professional look.
 - d. Avoid small prints or busy patterns, which can be distracting.
 - e. Stick with natural fabrics. No shiny polyester.
2. Dress shoes: avoid very high heels, but the nicest heels you can comfortably walk in all day are necessary. Pumps, no open toed shoes, and they should fit the season and the suit.
3. Wear hose or tights. Make sure they are natural looking and coordinate with your outfit.
4. Makeup should match your coloring and your personality – this is not the time for green eyeshadow or rainbow nail polish.
5. Hair must be worn off your face, be clean, and look professional.
6. No excessive or large jewelry. Avoid things which jingle/clang. Small pearl studs and a pearl necklace would be appropriate.
7. Undergarments should STAY UNDER GARMENTS (and out of sight).

The goal is not to stifle your individuality, but to maintain the appearance of a highly competitive and powerful team. Your appearance should never distract from the message you are communicating. If there are any questions, see me!