

**New Stoa Rules Explained**

*Release date: September 23, 2019*

Stoa has tightened up its evidence standards for Season 20 with stricter guidelines in how evidence is quoted within Lincoln-Douglas debate. Monument Members will be ready.

Traditionally, since LD is “value” debate and not “policy,” citations of support in the form of endnotes or footnotes were adequate for reading a debate case. Cases read more like a research paper than a legal brief, allowing partial readings and paraphrasing. Such reading is no longer allowed in Lincoln-Douglas debate in Stoa. Stricter evidence standards will be required of all LD debaters in future Stoa tournaments. To fully understand the changes for LD debaters, follow these links:

<http://stoausa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Debate-Executive-Summary-2019.pdf>

<http://stoausa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/StoaLincolnDouglasRules2019-20.pdf>

Bring your attention to the following changes listed in the Executive Summary:

* Section III. F. 2. (b): updated to specify what constitutes a full source citation.
* Section III. F. 2. (c): required debaters to read complete sentences from cut evidence, without omitting any words or phrases (information in parentheses excepted).
* Section III. F. 2. (d): specified that evidence may not be pieced together from noncontiguous sections of an article.
* Section III. F. 2. (k): clarified that fabrication of information is prohibited.

We at Monument have always had a policy of publishing evidence consistent with the fourth item, rule (f) above, but the previous items (b, c, and d) were usually cited using footnotes. At Monument, we will ensure our evidence complies with all the rules above and will start creating “cards” inside our cases and briefs to make sure we follow the new Stoa evidence standards.

Since we just became aware of this rule change, prior to September 23 Monument released one case that had some evidence outside of the new Stoa rules. This case has been corrected. Here is the link for your convenience:

* <https://monumentmembers.com/stoa-lincoln-douglas-release-07-equality-aff/>

For the rest of Season 20, Monument releases will conform to Stoa’s new standards.