

# Judging Instructions for Public Forum Debate

Public Forum is a 2-person team debate event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the monthly resolution topic.

The clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. The debate should:

- Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis
- Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)
- Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum

## Logistics

Four competitors will arrive at the start of the round. Start the round when your set of scheduled debaters are there.

Please make sure to double check the names and sides before beginning the round. Remember, the ballot screen has the correct matchup on it.

## Topic

Students will debate the following resolution

**Resolved: The United States should accede to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea without reservations.**

## Time Allocation

Time limits for PF are 4-4-3-4-4-3-2-2-3-2-2, with 2 minutes preparation time per team.

Aff Constructive	4 minutes
Neg Constructive	4 minutes
Crossfire (between 1 <sup>st</sup> speakers)	3 minutes
Aff Rebuttal	4 minutes
Neg Rebuttal	4 minutes
Crossfire (between 2 <sup>nd</sup> speakers)	3 minutes
Aff Summary	2 minutes
Neg Summary	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire (All speakers)	3 minutes
Aff Final Focus	2 minutes
Neg Final Focus	2 minutes
<i>(No New Arguments in either Final Focus)</i>	
Prep Time	2 minutes per team

You are the official timekeeper for the round. Students are permitted to time themselves/each other and cell phones may be used as timers. If you do not feel that you can simultaneously keep time and take notes during the debate, ask the teams to keep time for each other. Many debaters feel comfortable keeping track of time during the debate, but because this is an early tournament with a Novice division, it is best if you can keep a timer as well.

## Computer Policy

Students may use/read evidence located on their computer but it cannot be new evidence found during the debate round.

(Please note that use of I-Pads, computers, jump drives, cloud storage, such as Dropbox, and email for the purposes of sharing speech documents is acceptable during Public Forum debates).

## Ballot Procedure

Please see the “Judging Debate” handout for details on tournament procedure. E-balloting instructions are located on the back of that form.