

2020
Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational
James Logan High School
Congressional Debate
Rules & Legislation:



29TH ANNUAL

JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL
FORENSICS SPEECH & DEBATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INVITATIONAL 2020

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THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Welcome to Congressional Debate at the Martin Luther King Jr. Tournament hosted by James Logan High School. We are excited for a great weekend. The rules below are consistent with the guidelines and standards suggested by the Tournament of Champions and the National Speech and Debate Association. Any tournament based discrepancies will be outlined below. We welcome all of your questions as we approach the tournament.

1 SESSIONS & CHAMBERS

1.1 Number of Sessions: The tournament will consist of three preliminary sessions, one semi-final session, and a final session. The preliminary sessions will be two hours each, with the semi-finals and final session each receiving a two and a half hours allocation.

1.2 Assignment to Preliminary Chambers: Students will be assigned to preliminary chambers ideally of a size ranging from 12-15 students, never to exceed 16. Where possible students from the same school will be placed evenly in chambers. However, students may be placed together to leave chambers open such that judges from that school can be assigned without conflicts.

1.3 Double-Entry/Extemp: There will be enough time between the end of Congress and Individual Event rounds to make it to your I.E rounds. Extemp prep will be located near the Congress rooms for ease of access between the two. The tournament will be cognizant of double-entries when determining I.E speaking order.

2 LEGISLATION

2.1 Legislation to be Debated: There will be six pieces of legislation allocated to the preliminary rounds. The chamber can not debate more than two pieces of legislation per round. There will be two pieces of legislation allocated to each the semi-final and final rounds.

2.2 Publishing of Legislation: Once published on the tournament website, the legislation docket should be downloaded and printed. The tournament will not supply printed copies to the students. A printed copy will be provided for each judge and parliamentarian's personal use.

3 ESTABLISHING THE AGENDA

3.1 Determining the Agenda: Prior to the beginning of Session 1, each preliminary chamber will act as a committee of the whole to determine the order of legislation to be debated throughout the three preliminary sessions. The chamber may do this by unanimous consent or by voting on multiple proposed agendas.

3.2 Freedom of Debate: Suspensions of the rules to allow for changes to the agenda are not permitted. Once the chamber has set an agenda for the tournament, they may not deviate from that agenda. This ensures fair competition and equitable preparation. Debate on a bill will continue until time expires in the session during which it began, or the previous question is called, whichever comes first. **There is no minimum or maximum time (i.e. no one-hour limit) for each agenda item to be debated.**

4 ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

4.1 Election Procedures: The parliamentarian will conduct elections for presiding officers, assisted by scorers in the collection of the secret ballots. Each student within the chamber may cast one vote. Voting will continue, dropping the lowest vote-getter(s), until one person receives a majority. The presiding officer election shall be held at the beginning of each session.

4.2 Progression of Speeches and Cross-Examination: Debate on each bill or resolution will begin with a call for a three-minute authorship speech by its signed author, or in their absence by a representative from their school. An author or student(s) from the author's school may decline to stand for this speech. In the absence of such a speech, the presiding officer will call for any representative to deliver the first affirmative speech, functionally sponsoring the legislation. Following the delivery of the first affirmative speech, the chair will allow for two minutes of questioning of the speaker. Following the questioning, the chair will ask for a speech in opposition to the bill. This speech will be three minutes long followed by a two-minute period of questioning. All subsequent speeches shall be three minutes in length followed by a one-minute questioning period. In preliminary rounds, chambers must adhere to the traditional one question, one answer format. Cross-examination in all elimination round sessions will be by direct questioning. The chair will yield time to members of the chamber wishing to question the speaker in blocks of 30 seconds using recency followed by prioritizing those who may have been refuted.

4.3 Time Signals: The tournament strongly prefers gavel taps to be used opposed to hand signals throughout the course of the tournament as the method to inform speakers of the time remaining in their speech. Please train presiding officers on gavel tap procedures ahead of time.

4.4 One-Sided Debate: In the unlikely absence of a first affirmative speech, debate may also begin on a new piece of legislation with a negative speech. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive affirmative or negative speeches that can be given.

4.5 Recognizing Speakers: When more than one debater seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method, that is:

- First, recognize students who have not spoken during the session. Choose between these students at random.
- Next, recognize students who have spoken fewer times during the session.
- Finally, recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently) during the session.

4.6 Penalty for Speeches Exceeding Time Limits: Any regular floor speech that extends more than 10 seconds beyond the maximum speaking time of three minutes shall be penalized one full point on the speech score by the judge evaluating the session(does not need to effect their in round ranking). The Presiding Officer is required to keep accurate time of each speech and report it to the judges when the speaker has finished.

4.7 Precedence and the Legislative Day: Within each session precedence/recency do not reset, to ensure that all students in a chamber have opportunities to speak and receive evaluation from the scorers. When each new session begins precedence/recency will be reset. While the tournament staff will strive to give each debater an equal number of speeches, as we recognize the importance of this practice, the length of sessions should not be altered to allow all members to end with an equal number of speeches unless otherwise stated by the congress director. The tournament has allocated enough time to each session for every student to speak multiple times

5 OTHER NOTES OF DECORUM

5.1 Amendments: Legislators may submit amendments to the Presiding Officer in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment; such a motion is in order any time after the first affirmative speech. Once the motion is made, the Parliamentarian decides if the amendment is germane. If the amendment is deemed not to be germane, the chair rules it out-of-order and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, he/she should read the contents of the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members present in

the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. Legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a sponsorship speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the sponsorship speech based on priority; the author of the amendment is not guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards priority. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment (this of course after a 2/3 vote has been achieved to call previous question on the amendment).

5.2 Voting by Unanimous Consent: When a motion is unlikely to be contested, it is appropriate for the Chair to call for unanimous consent by asking, “are there any objections” before executing the motion. Members may then respond by announcing “objection” to the chamber. This is not an automatic recognition to explain the substance of that objection. Proper expression of your objection is to then vote “Nay” in the subsequent division of the chamber. It is imperative that Presiding Officers cease the inefficient practice of allowing explanations of objections ad nauseam.

5.3 Personal Privileges: It has become common practice in recent years to suspend the rules and allow for an “open” chamber where members may freely enter and exit between speeches. While this does relieve the Chair of traffic directing duties, it has led to some degree of abuse by debaters. Therefore, at the MLK tournament suspension of the rules for the purposes of an open chamber is not permitted. No more than two members should be excused from chambers simultaneously.

5.4 Designation as a House of Representatives or a Senate: The MLK tournament strives to be a contest with the highest standards of behavior at all times among attending students. Debate modeling the work of the United States Congress should be enjoyable but also taken seriously. All preliminary chambers are designated as a House of Representatives, while semifinal chambers and the final chamber are designated as Senates. A member of a Senate is always referred to as Senator, while a member of a House of Representatives is always referred to as Representative. The Presiding Officer of a Senate is addressed as President, while the Presiding Officer of a House of Representatives is addressed as Speaker. The Presiding Officer is responsible for enforcing proper decorum.

5.5 Advocates in Good Faith: A debater may not speak on both sides of the same legislation but may speak as many times on the same piece of legislation as their priority permits and the chamber allows before calling the question.

6 JUDGE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Number of Judges: Two qualified judges will serve for each preliminary session, three for semi-final sessions, and five for the final session. There will be one parliamentarian serving in each session from prelims through finals. A judge will not be assigned to evaluate a student from their school(s).

6.2 Instructions to Judges: Judges should rank the students as “legislators” and not merely as “speakers” considering their argumentative skill, oratorical skill and overall effectiveness as a leader in the chamber. Brief guidelines are specified on the speech ballots.

6.3 Judges’ Scoring of Speeches and Preferential Rankings: In the preliminary session, each judge will score every speech on a scale of 1-6 points (6 is best). At the end of each session, the two judges will independently each rank the top eight students who advanced the debate most effectively (1st is best). All unranked students will receive a rank of ninth. The 1-6 speech score and the 1-8 independent ranking are separate, one doesn’t necessarily need to influence the other. The Presiding Officer may be ranked in the top eight and should be if s/he provides outstanding service to the chamber. All judges will be instructed that they must consider the Presiding Officer.

6.4 Parliamentarians: A Parliamentarian will be appointed to serve continuously for the three preliminary sessions. The Parliamentarians ensure order, allowing the chamber to run itself but correcting significant procedural errors that affect fairness.

6.5 Scoring of the Presiding Officer: The Parliamentarian will be solely responsible for scoring the performance of the presiding officer following each session. As per NSDA rules, the Parliamentarian will award the Presiding Officer up to six points per hour per one hour they preside in a round for a total of 18 points.

6.6 Parliamentarians' Preferential Rankings: Once at the end of all preliminary sessions, the semifinal session, or the final session as appropriate, the parliamentarian will rank all of the legislators in the chamber. The parliamentarian's top eight rankings will be included in the calculation of which legislators advance from each chamber, and his/her rankings beyond eighth will be used as a possible tiebreaker.

7 THE SEMI-FINAL & FINAL SESSIONS

7.1 Number of Students Advancing: Consistent with TOC guidelines, the tournament intends to advance no more than one-third of all preliminary contestants to the semifinal session. The number of students advancing is dependent on the number of preliminary chambers and the optimum number of students in the semifinal chambers. The exact number of students advancing from each preliminary chamber will be announced at the opening meeting. There will be two or three semifinal chambers, ideally of 14-16 students each, and one final chamber of 12-16 students.

7.2 Determining Advancing Students: Each individual preliminary chamber is tabulated independent of the others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total (each judge's top eight plus the parliamentarian's top eight) advance to the next level of competition. We will use NSDA procedures to break all ties. Ranks do not carry forward from preliminary sessions to the semifinal session, or from the semifinal session to the final session.

7.3 Balancing the Semifinal Chambers: Advancing students shall be assigned to one of two or three semifinal chambers with an effort made to disperse students from the same preliminary chamber, and balance strength of competition based on preliminary rankings. Students from the same school will be evenly placed in different semifinal chambers.

7.4 Judges and the Parliamentarian: At least three judges will be assigned to the semifinal session and will be responsible for evaluating the participants' speeches. At least five judges will be assigned to the final session.

7.5 Presiding Officer: Each parliamentarian and the Director of Congress will act as the temporary presiding officer of the semifinal and final sessions respectively, accepting nominations for the Presiding Officer. The members will vote immediately for one nominee after each nominee has the opportunity to address the chamber.

7.6 Legislation and Authorship Speeches: Tournament directors have selected the legislation to be debated in the semifinal and final sessions. The chamber will meet as a committee of the whole to choose the order in which the legislation will be debated. There are no authorship speeches in the semi-final or final sessions. Any student may give the sponsorship speech.

7.7 Awards: All participants in the final session will receive awards at the awards ceremony following its conclusion.

8 ETHICAL AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

8.1 Observers: All chambers are open for public viewing. Gallery members should be quiet and attentive, entering and exiting chambers only between speeches. The parliamentarian in each chamber can and should remove any disruptive observers and bar them from returning.

8.2 Electronic Devices and Internet Usage: The use of electronic devices in chambers is permitted, though it is strongly recommended that students avoid reading notes from devices when delivering speeches in front of the chamber. All devices must be silenced. Please be advised that limited power supplies may exist in the classrooms and the tournament accepts no responsibility for providing Congressional debaters with a power source at any tournament site. Internet access/usage in chambers during a session is also permitted and guest wireless network

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access will be provided. While in session, debaters are forbidden to communicate with any observer or person outside the chamber. This tournament uses the “pilot guidelines for laptop use in Debate events” found on page 27 of the National Speech and Debate Association’s *High School Unified Manual*.

8.3 Ethical Use of Evidence: The tournament will utilize the National Speech and Debate Association’s evidence rules found beginning on page 38 of its *High School Unified Manual*. The tournament directors will rule on any appeal of a parliamentarian’s decision.

8.4 General Tournament Rules: Beyond the rules and procedures specific to Congressional debate outlined above, James Logan High School also requires that you observe the following general standards of conduct.

- No eating or drinking (excluding water) by anyone associated with the tournament while in classrooms.
- Inappropriate language will not be allowed.
- Disrespect or misuse of the facilities or furnishings will not be tolerated.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.
- All school district policies, local, and state laws regarding harassment must be observed.
- All school district policies, local, and state laws prohibiting smoking (including vaping), alcohol, and weapons must be observed.

8.5 Penalties: Consequences for infractions may result in any or all of the following actions at the sole discretion of tournament directors whose decisions are final.

- Disqualification from the tournament
- Loss of participation points
- Forfeiture of awards
- School administrators being notified of any misconduct
- Any additional consequences deemed appropriate to the severity of the infraction

Schools will be held financially responsible for all damages incurred.

These rules and guidelines were derived from that of the Tournament of Champions, National Speech and Debate Association, and the Glenbrooks Speech and Debate Invitational.

We look forward to a great weekend of Congressional Debate!

-The Martin Luther King Jr Congressional Debate Tabstaff

****Updated* MLK Congressional Debate Schedule***

Friday, January 17th

5:00 pm Congress Opening Meeting(All debaters and judges should be present)

6:00 pm Congress Round 1

Saturday, January 18th

9:30 am Round 2

1:30 pm Round 3

6:00 pm Semi-Finals

Sunday, January 19th

2:00 pm Finals

Awards Ceremony takes place as soon as Duo Interpretation Finals ends in Center for Performing Arts

A Bill to Reallocate U.S. Foreign Aid to Kashmir

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All monetary foreign aid allocated to India under the USAID office's enacted budget shall hereby be redirected in its entirety in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

SECTION 2. "Monetary foreign aid" shall be defined as any direct financial assistance granted by the U.S. to India for military, developmental, or humanitarian purposes.

SECTION 3. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall be responsible for screening and selecting the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who will be tasked with distributing humanitarian aid and supplies to the Kashmiri people.

A. Congress shall hold the power to audit any NGOs selected by USAID in order to verify their legitimacy.

SECTION 4. This Bill shall take effect beginning on April 1, 2020, and shall remain in effect until India restores Kashmir's right to self-governance.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Debate by Monte Vista Speech and Debate

A Bill to Guarantee Free Legal Representation to Unaccompanied Minors

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Unaccompanied minors shall be guaranteed the right to free legal representation in immigration removal proceedings. Qualified legal representatives may be pro bono, or appointed at government expense.

SECTION 2. “Unaccompanied minors” shall be defined as children who have no lawful immigration status in the United States, have not attained 18 years of age, and have no parent or legal guardian in the United States who is available to provide for their care and physical custody.

SECTION 3. The enforcement of this policy shall be carried out jointly by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect on April 1, 2020.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Palo Alto Speech and Debate.

A Resolution to Suspend US Military Aid to Israel

- WHEREAS,** Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was recently indicted for bribery and corruption charges; and
- WHEREAS,** Unstable governments tend to commit human rights violations using their military at a higher rate in order to assert power; and
- WHEREAS,** Israel has recently committed human rights violations and war crimes in Gaza according to the Human Rights Watch; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States has given billions of dollars in military aid to Israel; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that Israel's military aid and loan guarantees be suspended until this congress has determined there has been the formation of a stable government, willing to fully investigate human right's violations being committed by it's military

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Davis Senior Speech and Debate.

The Refugee Placement Act of 2020

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The Executive Branch of the United States shall have the authority to place accepted refugees in any location under the jurisdiction of the United States.
- SECTION 2.** No state or local government shall have the authority to reject or protest refugees placed within their jurisdictions as a result of this Act.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security shall be tasked with ensuring that all accepted refugees are properly vetted.
- SECTION 4.** This Act shall be enforced by the Department of Justice, which shall have the authority to determine and assign penalties for violations.
- SECTION 5.** This Act will take effect immediately upon passage.
- SECTION 6.** All laws and executive acts in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Valley International Preparatory Speech and Debate

The Universal Pre-K Act of 2020

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall provide grants to all states for the implementation of a Universal Preschool program.
- SECTION 2.** States will be responsible for the distribution of grants and the implementation of the Universal Preschool programs.
- SECTION 3.** States shall retain the right to refuse the grant funding in Section 1 of this legislation and the right to not establish a Universal Preschool program.
- SECTION 4.** Funding for the grants mandated by Section 1 of this legislation shall be derived from the Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2021 budget.
- SECTION 5.** This legislation shall be implemented by the Department of Education.
- SECTION 6.** This legislation shall go into effect on October 1st, 2021.
- SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by John F. Kennedy Speech and Debate

The Congressional 2030 Decade Challenge

WHEREAS, man-made climate change is one of the biggest and most pressing crises facing the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States to set goals for the next decade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Congress here assembled that by January 1st, 2030, the United States shall:

- (A)** Fully eliminate carbon emissions.
- (B)** Meet 100 percent of the domestic power demand through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources.
- (C)** Spearhead a new international agreement to aggressively combat the effects and causes of climate change.
- (D)** Begin mitigating and managing the long-term adverse health, economic, and other effects of pollution and climate change.
- (E)** Substantially reduce federal subsidies to meat manufacturers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a new federal agency, the Department of Environmental Security, shall be established to facilitate the United States' pursuit of these goals.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by James Logan Speech and Debate

Semi-Finals Legislation

The Disclosure Act of 2020

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All pre-existing Nondisclosure Agreements related to sexual harassment cases are hereby declared null and void.

SECTION 2. No new Nondisclosure Agreements related to sexual harassment cases may take effect within the jurisdiction of the United States.

SECTION 3. For the purposes of this legislation, “Nondisclosure Agreement” shall be defined as any legally binding agreement that prohibits disclosure of certain confidential information.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect immediately.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech & Debate Association

Semi-Finals Legislation

The Russian Rebuke Resolution

WHEREAS, the Central Intelligence Agency, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Security Agency, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and both the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have all concluded that the Russian Federation intentionally interfered in the 2016 United States Presidential Election; and

WHEREAS, the United States holding secure and independent elections is vital to both our democracy and the international community; and

WHEREAS, Russian interference has called the security and independence of United States elections into question throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Federation has refused to acknowledge that the interference took place; and

WHEREAS, all signs point to the conclusion that Russians will interfere in the 2020 Presidential Election; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Congress here assembled that we do hereby forcefully condemn the Russian Federation for their role in interfering in the 2016 United States Presidential Election.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech & Debate Association

Finals Legislation

The Tariff Power Reclamation Act of 2020

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** No tariffs may be imposed by the United States without approval from both houses of Congress.
- SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation, “tariffs” shall be defined as any taxes imposed on goods imported from outside the United States that are not imposed on similar goods from within the United States.
- SECTION 3.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately.
- SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech & Debate Association

Finals Legislation

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Allow Line Item Vetoes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE 28

- SECTION 1.** The Congress shall have the power to empower the President to sign only a portion of bills sent to them for approval.
- SECTION 2.** The President may only exercise this power when explicitly granted the authority to do so by an act of Congress.
- SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech & Debate Association