



**Young Genius Online
Middle and High School
Congressional Debate
Tournament Docket and
Procedures Handbook**

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Tournament Location:

Online. Link will be provided closer to the tournament date.

Tournament Date:

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Questions/Requests for Additional Information:

Feel free to contact us at info@bayareadebate.com.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30 AM:	Check into your virtual Congress Houses Online
9:30 - 9:40 AM:	Tournament welcome with Bay Area Speech and Debate principal, Ms. Taisia, and academic director, Ms. Leah
9:45 - 11:15 AM :	Round 1
11:15 - 11:45 PM:	Break
11:45 AM- 1:15 PM:	Round 2
1:15 - 1:45 PM:	Break
1:45 - 3:15 PM:	Round 3
3:15 - 3:45 PM:	Break
3:45 - 5:15 PM:	Final Round
5:15 - 5:30 PM:	Break
5:30 PM:	Results Announcement
<i>Trophies and medals will be handed out to the students when school is back in session.</i>	

HOW YOUNG GENIUS CONGRESS WILL WORK

SET-UP REQUIREMENTS

- Competitors must be set up with a working microphone and webcam.
- Please set up a professional working and presentation environment: students must be sitting at a desk/ table in a quiet place with room to stand and move as they present. All distractions such as pet(s) and/or toys must be removed from the space.
- Be mindful of noise and talking in the background as the computer microphone will pick this up.
- No eating or drinking (except for water) permitted during the rounds. Please make sure your student has snacks/meals during break times.
- All competitors should wear professional attire during the tournament.

RULES OF DEBATE

- There will be three (3) preliminary rounds and students will debate two (2) bills/resolutions per round. Students are expected to speak once per round. They may give a second speech only if time allows, **and everyone in the chamber has had a chance to speak.**
- Topics per round have been set (please see the order of the legislation set below), but students may set the docket to determine the order of legislation within the round.
- Speakers must raise their hands to speak or ask questions.
- In order to vote or complete motions, students must raise their hands.
- Presiding Officers (POs) will be nominated and elected prior to each round. POs should split the round so that one student serves for the first topic and the other serves for the second topic.
- Students should give speeches of 3 minutes (with 10 seconds grace period) in length either in affirmation or in negation of the bill or resolution being debated.
- Students in the chamber deliver their speeches in cycles (a cycle comprises of one affirmative speech and one negative speech) until the students decide to vote on the legislation.
- Students should wait for a cycle to complete before introducing a motion to the chamber.
- If the chamber runs out of either affirmative or negative speeches to complete a cycle, students should motion for an “open podium,” meaning that if an affirmative speaker has just spoken, it is permissible

to give another affirmative speaker the floor over a negation speaker, provided that the affirmative speaker has precedence based on recency. The motion should be structured as follows: "I motion for open podium." or "I move for open podium." The motion must then be seconded and voted upon by the chamber. If it receives 2/3 majority of the votes in the chamber, then it is passed.

- After a student completes his/her 3 minute speech, the presiding officer calls on other students to ask short (generally 10 seconds or so in length) questions of the speaker who has just spoken, with only one question per each student being called upon at any one time. However, that same student may ask another question(s) once other students who have not asked questions have gone and there is still time left in the questioning period.
- The speaker answers those questions very briefly (generally roughly 10 seconds per response). The questioning period goes on for 2 minutes for the first affirmative speech and the first negative speech and 1 minute for every speaker afterwards regardless if it is an affirmative or negative speech with as many students as possible asking questions.
- Standard questioning procedures will be used; prefacing/leading questions and two-part questions are not allowed.
- The students are permitted to motion to extend the time of the questioning period. The motion should be structured as follows: "I motion to extend the questioning period by (state by what amount of time, usually by 1 minute or 30 seconds)." The motion must then be seconded and voted upon by the chamber. If it receives a majority of the votes in the chamber, then it is passed.
- Presiding Officers are required to follow standard recency/precedence procedures. First priority is given to speakers who have given the fewest speeches. Between speakers who have given the same number of speeches, the speaker who has spoken the least recently is given priority. Before recency is established, ties must be broken randomly. **Standing time will NOT be used during the rounds.**
- Recency, precedence, and questions reset between sessions.
- To end the session, a motion to close Congress must be passed. The motion should be structured as follows: "I move for the previous question." or "I motion to close Congress." The motion must then be seconded and voted upon by the chamber. If it receives a majority of the votes in the chamber, then it is passed.
- Legislation may not be debated between sessions. If debate begins on a bill in one session, it must end in the same session and may not be continued to other sessions.
- Students should only be using one device to connect to the tournament. No other devices are permitted.
- Students are allowed to use the internet to do research during the round, but they may not use it to receive any outside help during the round (ex: chatting with coaches or other teammates).
- All competitors must be polite and respectful to each other in the rounds and outside of them.

HELPFUL PHRASES AND TERMINOLOGY

Make a motion – “I move that (or to)…” or “I motion to…”

Second a motion – “Second!”

Open debate on the current issue – “I move/motion to open Congress.”

Divide the house – “I motion to split Congress.

Leave the room (toilet, drink water, etc.) – “I motion for personal privilege. To leave the room.” *The chamber does not need to vote on this motion, it is up to the discretion of the Presiding Officer.*

Coming back into the room – (wait outside the door until the speaker is done talking and the questioning time is complete) open the door and say, “Permission to enter the chamber.” Wait for the Presiding Officer to grant you permission to enter the chamber.

Ask about an error – “Motion! Point of Order…”

Address the Presiding Officer if you would like to bring up a discrepancy or an issue (like the PO only picking students from his/her school to speak) “I motion to address the PO.”

Table – “I move to table the legislation.”

Close debate on the current issue – “I move/motion for the previous question.” or “I move/motion to close Congress.”

Presiding Officer/Chair: the leader of a legislative assembly who runs its meetings by recognizing members to speak or move. Also called the “presiding officer,” or “P.O.” Modeled after the Speaker of the House, or the Vice President or President *pro tempore* of the Senate.

Chamber: the group of students in a single room.

Cross-examination: period where the members of the assembly ask individual questions of the speaker. Multiple-part (or two-part) questions are not allowed because they take time from other members who may wish to question the speaker.

Divide the House: division of the house in parliamentary procedure refers to a vote. However, the motion to divide the house in student congress is more commonly used to determine how many speakers wish to speak on each side of a bill or resolution.

Docket: the complete packet of legislation (as titles or full text) distributed by a tournament.

Floor: when a member has the full attention of the assembly to speak (also refers to the area where the assembly meets, where its members speak, and where it conducts its business).

Legislation: a specific, written proposal (in the form of a “bill” or “resolution”) made by a member or committee for assembly to debate.

Leading Question: any question that begins with a preface (“according to the *New York Times*...”) or suggests the answer or contains the information the examiner is looking for (“wouldn’t you agree that this bill would...”).

Motion: a formal proposal to an assembly to take a certain action.

Open Podium: refers to a situation when the order of speeches does not matter; for example, only affirmative speakers will be giving speeches.

Priority or Precedence: standard rule in most leagues (including NSDA and NCFL), which requires the presiding officer to choose speakers who have spoken least (or not at all).

Recency: widely-used system (not a rule NCFL or NFL), where the presiding officer not only employs precedence, but also selects speakers based on who has spoken least recently (or earlier).

Standing Time or “Longest Standing”: denotes when students first seek recognition to speak; those who were standing earlier but were not called on initially will be recognized before students who wait until later in the debate to stand.

Resolution: an expression of conviction, or value belief of an assembly, which may urge, request or suggest further action by another decision-making authority or amend the Constitution.

Bill: type of legislation that describes the details of how a policy would be enacted, if voted into law by the assembly.

Table: to put a piece of legislation aside and move on without voting on the legislation.

Voting: there are three types of votes in congress:

- Voice Vote : the most efficient but least accurate. “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ opposed say ‘Nay’.
- Standing Vote : More accurate than a voice vote and the most common manner of voting in congress. Students will raise their hands or stand up.

Yield: an action in which a member is called on to speak but declines recognition thus yielding his time to another member who wishes to speak. Members who yield should lose their standing time.

YOUNG GENIUS CONGRESS DOCKET ORDER

ROUND 1

- A. A Bill to Break Up Amazon.com
- B. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Regard Solitary Confinement as Cruel and Unusual Punishment

ROUND 2

- A. A Bill to Tax the Gross Profits of Native Americans
- B. A Bill to Reform the For-Profit Prison System

ROUND 3

- A. A Bill to Reinststate the Fairness Doctrine
- B. A Bill to Fund the Immigration Courts to Aid Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors

FINAL ROUND

- A. A Resolution to Establish a Digital Tax
- B. The Mandatory Vaccination Act of 2020

Round 1, Topic A

A BILL TO BREAK UP AMAZON.COM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. Amazon.com shall be broken up in compliance with the Department of Justice
2. Competition and Monopoly: Single-Firm Conduct Under Section 2 of the
3. Sherman Act; Chapter 1 rule.

4. SECTION 2. Due to Amazon.com's evolvment into the media and technology industry,
5. the electronic commerce company Amazon.com shall be broken up to be in
6. compliance with the Department of Justice Competition and Monopoly: Single-
7. Firm Conduct under Section 2 of the Sherman Act; Chapter 1 rule.

8. SECTION 3. The Department of Justice, Antitrust division, shall be allowed complete
9. independent oversight over the investigation and potential break up of
10. Amazon.com following a two-year investigatory period.

11. SECTION 4. This bill shall take effect upon the completion and recommendation of the
12. Department of Justice Antitrust division no later than January of 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alhambra High School

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO REGARD SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

6. **ARTICLE 28**

7. SECTION 1. No inmate in any prison or jail within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be
8. confined alone in a cell without the opportunity to see or speak to other persons
9. for more than fourteen (14) hours in one day.

10. SECTION 2. Any violation of Section 1 of this article shall be considered an act of Cruel and
11. Unusual Punishment under the 8th article of the amendment to the United States
12. Constitution.

13. SECTION 3. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech & Debate Association

Round 2, Topic A

A BILL TO TAX THE GROSS PROFITS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1: Through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, which protects tax-exempt
2. Indian gaming establishments that generate revenue for Native American tribes,
3. Congress shall impose a 5% federal tax on all gross earnings of Native American
4. casinos. Proceeds from this federal tax will go directly to Native American tribes
5. to increase funding of reservation-based substance abuse treatment programs.
6. SECTION 2: "Indian Gaming" is defined for the purposes of this bill as Class III gaming
7. according to the National Indian Gaming Commission (N.I.G.C. at Dept. on
8. the Interior) which includes any and all forms of gaming as defined under Class III
9. gaming, including games occurring at and being played at casinos including
10. baccarat, blackjack, craps, poker, roulette, slot machines as well as any and all
11. electronic facsimiles and wagering games of any game of chance. Not to
12. be taxed are N.I.G.C.-defined Class I gaming (traditional Indian gaming that may
13. be part of tribal ceremonies/celebrations as well as community-based social
14. gaming for minimal prizes) and Class II gaming (bingo, bingo-like contests, instant
15. bingo, pull tabs, punch board and tip jars). Only Class III gaming revenue will fall
16. under the intent and actions of this bill.
17. SECTION 3. The tax will be levied and collected by the N.I.G.C. with the proceeds from said
18. taxation administered by the Indian Health Services (I.H.S. at the Dept. of Health
19. and Human Services) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A. at the Dept. of the
20. Interior). Agent of enforcement will be the N.I.G.C.
21. A. In 2016, the N.I.G.C. estimated that, nationwide, Native American-owned
22. and -operated gaming establishments generated \$29.9 billion in 2015, a
23. 5% increase over the \$28.5 billion generated in 2014.
24. SECTION 4. Taxation of gross Indian gaming revenue will begin in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
25. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Hills High School

Round 2, Topic B

A BILL TO REFORM THE FOR-PROFIT PRISON SYSTEM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The US will implement a mandatory reform of federal control over
2. for-profit Prisons, for both state and federal prisons.
3. SECTION 2. Corporations that fund private prisons may not be involved in the forming of
4. legislation with individuals or groups that serve policy making functions.
5. SECTION 3. The impacts of the corporations being involved with policy making organizations
6. are as follows:
7. A. In terms of federal prisons, a company's failure to meet the requirements
8. will cause a closure of their facilities immediately after the relocation of the
9. incarcerated as well as a \$50,000 fine per inmate currently imprisoned.
10. B. States may choose to opt out of this legislation, but will have their federal
11. road budget cut 15%, which will continue each year they are non-
12. compliant.
13. SECTION 4. All private incarceration facilities must meet these requirements by
- December 31, 2020.
14. SECTION 5. All federal laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Round 3, Topic A

A BILL TO REINSTATE THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The Fairness Doctrine will be re-implemented by the FCC as a governing policy.
2. SECTION 2. The Fairness Doctrine shall be defined as the policy abolished by the FCC in
3. 1987 that was primarily concerned with the news media providing a variety of
4. viewpoints on any given topic.
5. SECTION 3. The FCC will oversee implementation of this legislation.
6. A. Any necessary funding will be drawn from the budget of the FCC.
7. SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect three months after passage.
8. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Submitted by La Costa Canyon High School

Round 3, Topic B

A BILL TO FUND THE IMMIGRATION COURTS TO AID UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT MINORS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1: The Immigration Courts receive an additional \$5 million in funding each year
2. to run more efficiently in order to aid unaccompanied minor immigrant
3. children cases.
4. SECTION 2. This \$5 million will be cut from the military budget
5. SECTION 3. This will be enforced and overseen by the Office of Management and Budget
6. to ensure that the courts have the proper resources.
7. SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect starting January 1st, 2021.
8. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Final Round, Topic A

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A DIGITAL TAX

1. Whereas, big technology companies use strategies to avoid paying their fair share of
2. business taxes, and

3. Whereas, large tech companies are gobbling up bigger and bigger shares of the retail
4. economy; now, therefore, be it

5. Resolved, that the US Federal Government should establish a Digital Tax assessed against
6. total income from social media and/or digital searches regardless of country of
7. origin.

Final Round, Topic B

THE MANDATORY VACCINATION ACT OF 2020

1. WHEREAS, in recent years, there have been measles outbreaks in Los Angeles,
2. New York, and other areas; and
3. WHEREAS, these outbreaks could have been avoided if the surrounding areas had achieved
4. herd immunity; and
5. WHEREAS, achieving herd immunity requires mass vaccination across the country; and
6. WHEREAS, California's vaccination policy makes vaccines mandatory unless an individual
7. has verifiable medical complications; and
8. WHEREAS, such legislation implemented on a national level would be very beneficial to
9. public health across this country; now, therefore, be it
10. RESOLVED, by the Congress here assembled that we support the implementation of policy
11. requiring vaccinations, deemed necessary for public health by the Department
12. of Health and Human Services, for all residents, allowing exemptions only for
13. the doctor-verified medical conditions.