

South Coast Virtual Invitational



Marshfield High School



Kayla Crook, Tournament Director

kaylac@coos-bay.k12.or.us

Debate Rules

Policy Debate

Team size

(a) Teams may compete as two, three or four-person teams. On a two-person team, both speakers must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution; on a three-person team, one speaker shall debate both affirmative and negative, one shall debate only affirmative, and one shall debate only negative; and on a four-person team, two speakers may debate on affirmative and two on negative, or they may interchange at their discretion so long as only two speakers participate in any one debate. The third and / or fourth members of the team shall sit apart from the participants and shall not communicate in any way with the speakers during the round.

(b) Under the two, three or four-person arrangement, each ROUND shall involve only one debate, either affirmative or negative, for each team.

Length and order of speeches

Eight Minutes First Affirmative Constructive

Three Minutes Cross-Examination* by a Negative Speaker

Eight Minutes First Negative Constructive

Three Minutes Cross-Examination* by an Affirmative Speaker

Eight Minutes Second Affirmative Constructive

Three Minutes Cross-Examination* by the other Negative Speaker

Eight Minutes Second Negative Constructive

Three Minutes Cross-Examination* by the other Affirmative Speaker

Five Minutes First Negative Rebuttal

Five Minutes First Affirmative Rebuttal

Five Minutes Second Negative Rebuttal

Five Minutes Second Affirmative Rebuttal

*NOTE: "Tag team" cross-examination is not allowed. Cross-examination time may not be yielded to another team member. Each member of each team is responsible for asking all of the questions of one opponent and answering all of the questions of one opponent.

Rebuttals

(a) Speakers may change speaking order in rebuttals at the option of the coach and the team.

Opening constructive speakers may speak last in rebuttal.

(b) No new arguments shall be allowed in rebuttal speeches.

- Preparation time. Each team shall have a maximum of five minutes' preparation time to be used at the discretion of the team.
- Topic. See OSAA website, <http://www.osaa.org/activities/spe>.
- Electronic Devices/Computers. Electronic devices may be used following these guidelines:

(a) Any evidence used in the round must still be available for either the opposing team or the judge to view upon request.

(b) Competitors may use web resources along with print and electronically saved material during the round.

- **All debaters must be visible in round using a camera on their device. Each team may debate separately from multiple devices, but teams can also use the same device for both debaters.**
- Other Rules. See General Debate Rules.

Public Forum Debate

Team Size. In this debate form, there are two speakers to a team.

Topic. October NSDA Topic

Sides/Burdens. A team represents either the "pro" or the "con" side of the resolution. Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.

Side Draw Procedure. Prior to every round and in the presence of the judge(s), **the judge will allow the first team in the virtual room to call heads or tails in a coin toss. The judge will then use a coin toss simulator after all debaters have arrived to proceed with the coin toss.** The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate may begin.

Speaking Procedure. Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive argument, alternating between pro and con. (Please keep in mind that the debate may begin with a con speech.) Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire." In "crossfire," both debaters "hold the floor," however, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the end of the first "crossfire," the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute "crossfire" takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the

crossfire procedure discussed above. Following the four constructive speeches and two "crossfire" segments, the 1st speakers for each team will each give a two-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refutation of arguments the team is losing. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech. At the conclusion of the "Grand Crossfire," the second speakers will each give a two-minute "Final Focus" speech. The "Final Focus" is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate

Time Limits

4 minutes First Speaker Team A
4 minutes First Speaker - Team B
3 minutes Crossfire
4 minutes Second Speaker - Team A
4 minutes Second Speaker - Team B
3 minutes Crossfire
3 minutes Summary - First Speaker - Team A
3 minutes Summary - First Speaker - Team B
3 minutes Grand Crossfire
2 minutes Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A
2 minutes Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B
Prep Time (per team) = 3 minutes

Plans/Counterplans

In Public Forum Debate, a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation is considered a plan or counterplan. Neither the pro nor the con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

Prompting

Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammates while they do not have the floor and during the Grand Crossfire.

Reading Case.

A team may decide, when asked by the opponent team for a copy of their case, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses, they shall not be penalized in any way.

Other Rules. See General Debate Rules.

Parliamentary Debate

Team Size. In this debate form, there are two speakers to a team. The affirmative team is called the Proposition. The negative team is called the Opposition.

Length and Order of Speeches.

7 minutes 1st Proposition constructive

8 minutes 1st Opposition constructive

8 minutes 2nd Proposition constructive

8 minutes 2nd Opposition constructive

4 minutes Opposition rebuttal (given by 1st Opposition speaker)

5 minutes Proposition rebuttal (given by 1st Proposition speaker)

Resolutions.

(a) There shall be three resolutions per round.

(b) One resolution shall be a policy resolution, one resolution shall be a value resolution and the third resolution may be either a value or a policy resolution.

(c) The Affirmative team must affirm the resolution.

Topic Draw and Preparation Room Procedures.

(a) After examining the three-posted topics which the judge will copy and paste into the chat feature of the virtual room only after all debaters are present, teammates should discuss and prioritize the choices. Postings may also be released publicly when each round is posted.

(b) The **judge** shall ask the Proposition to strike first, then the Opposition. The remaining topic shall be debated.

(c) All competitors must prepare for the debate in sight of the judge but may mute their devices during this period.

- Materials allowed in the Parliamentary Debate Preparation Room and in the round.

(a) Paper

(b) Dictionary. Allowed in Preparation Room ONLY.

(c) Pens or Pencils

(d) An internet-enabled device.

Questions and Answers.

(a) In this debate form, there is no formal cross-examination period for the speakers.

(b) Instead, the speakers have the option to ask questions during the opponents' constructive speeches.

(c) When a question is desired, the questioner **will raise a hand** to be acknowledged

by the opponent who has two options:

(1) Say "No Thank You" and continue.

(2) Say "Proceed" and answer the question.

(d) Remember that the stopwatch will not stop for a question. Speakers must present their constructive speeches and answer questions in the allowed time. Questions cannot be asked during the first and last minute of the opponents' constructive speeches. There shall be no questions during the rebuttals.

Judge Participation.

(a) The Judge in a Parliamentary Debate is responsible for announcing each speaker and the amount of time for each speech. Example: "I will now call the second Opposition forward for an eight-minute speech," etc.

(b) The Judge shall disregard any arguments made over the time limits. The Judge shall disregard new arguments in rebuttals with the exception of the Proposition's response to new arguments made in the 2nd Opposition constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc., which support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.

(d) The Judge shall penalize misrepresentations of opponent's arguments, personal attacks on

opponents and rudeness by reducing speaker points and factoring such infractions into the decision.

- Heckling. No heckling is allowed other than supportive knocking, patting or applause.
- Points of Order and Points of Personal Privilege are not allowed.
- **All debaters must be visible in round using a camera on their device. Each team may debate separately from multiple devices, but teams can also use the same device for both debaters.**
- Other Rules. See General Debate Rules.

Lincoln Douglas Debate

Team. In this debate form, there is only one speaker to a team. A speaker in this contest must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

Length and order of speeches.

Six Minutes Affirmative Constructive Speech

Three Minutes Negative Questions Affirmative

Seven Minutes Negative Constructive Speech

Three Minutes Affirmative Questions Negative

Four Minutes Affirmative Rebuttal

Six Minutes Negative Rebuttal

Three Minutes Affirmative Rebuttal

Preparation Time. Each Debater shall be allowed a maximum of four minutes preparation time to be used at his / her discretion.

Value Debate Topics.

Novice- Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.

Open- Resolved: In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory.

Visibility. All debaters must be visible in round using a camera on their device. Each team may debate separately from multiple devices, but teams can also use the same device for both debaters.

Other Rules. See General Debate Rules.

Student Congress

Congress Officials

(a) Each house shall require the services of a parliamentarian to supervise that particular house, to preside in case a student officer becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, to correct gross errors in procedure, and to record actions taken. Ordinarily, the parliamentarian should remain in the background, but step forward firmly when his / her presence is needed. This will be especially necessary when the presiding officer is weak. The presiding officer is the "boss" and members of the house should not be permitted to argue with him / her. The purpose of the Congress is to debate legislation, and it is the parliamentarian's duty to see that this is done.

(b) An official scorer/judge (one for each session) shall be assigned to each house to assign speaking points and to rank legislators.

Bills and Resolutions- NSDA SEPTEMBER BILLS

(a) Definitions. A bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which if enacted will have the force of law. A resolution is simply a generalized statement expressing a conviction. A resolution will generally center debate on the broad principles of the concept; a bill is more apt to focus debate on the merits of the specific provisions it contains. Although they are not necessary, whereas clauses may be included in resolutions; bills never contain whereas clauses. The use of both bills and resolutions will add variety to Congress proceedings.

(b) Writing Bills and Resolutions. (See <http://www.osaa.org/activities.spe> for sample templates)

(1) Format. In constructing your bill or resolution, be sure that the following procedures are followed:

a) The bill or resolution must be typed.

b) Typing must be double-spaced, and the bill or resolution may not be longer than one page.

c) The first words of a bill are "Be It Enacted"; following any whereas clauses, the first words of a resolution are "Be It Resolved."

d) Each line of a bill or resolution must be numbered.
e) A resolution may be preceded by one or more "whereas clauses" but bills never have them.

f) The language of a bill must always be in the imperative mood. That is, it must state exactly what is to be done and by whom.

(2) Bills. A bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which if enacted will have the force of law. It must be definite; it must state exactly what is to be done or not to be done. A penalty must be stipulated or the law will not have force. A bill does not have "whereas clauses."

(3) Resolutions. A simple resolution is a generalized statement expressing the beliefs of the group adopting it, and it does not have the force of law. Constitutional amendments fall into this category since they must be submitted to the states after they are passed by congress. Resolutions may be preceded by one or more whereas clauses, stating the principle reasons for adopting the resolution, but the number of clauses should be limited and may be omitted altogether.

Presiding Officer

(a) The Presiding Officer shall follow parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order and the Table of Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions (available at <http://www.osaa.org/activites/spe>). Rules may be suspended for personal privilege only.

(b) Bills and resolutions shall appear in the **order in which they appear on the docket, which shall be posted publicly on the group chat feature of the virtual room**. To reorder the docket, a motion must be made following Robert's Rules of Order.

(c) A speaker from the authoring school shall be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter has no special privilege to be recognized over other members, and does not have the privilege to close the debate.

(d) Amendments must be in writing and must state exactly the words to be added or stricken. Amendments must be approved by the presiding officer, then the parliamentarian. Amendments must maintain the spirit of the bill or resolution. Amendments must be made during consideration of the bill or resolution that is being amended. Amendments may be made during affirmative or negative speeches. Amendments shall be considered only if they receive a second from one third of the members by a show of hands.

(e) Members shall claim the floor in debate only if they wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker; debate will alternate.

(f) A member may speak more than once on the same question.

(g) Use of the motion for previous question shall be discouraged so long as members have something new to contribute to the discussion. (When the motion for previous question is made, a standing vote shall be taken, as a two-thirds majority is required.)

(h) A member may not yield any portion of his / her speaking time to another except for a question. If the questioner attempts to make a statement or exposition, it should be suppressed immediately by the presiding officer.

(i) Toward the close of the session, the presiding officer shall announce, "The chair will recognize only those who have not spoken more than once." As soon as debate lags, the presiding officer may state, "General recognition will be resumed."

(j) The presiding officer should take votes quickly and with precision using the following or similar phrasing:

“The question is the adoption of the motion (STATE THE EXACT MOTION). Those in favor say, ‘Aye’; opposed say, ‘No.’ The Ayes have it and the motion is adopted.”

On the final vote on a bill or an amendment to a bill, and in all cases where other than a majority vote is required for passage, the presiding officer should call for a standing vote.

A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call for a division of the house must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.

(k) Questions of procedures not covered by these rules shall be ruled on by the Parliamentarian.

Superior Members

(a) The scorer from each session shall cast a ballot, ranking the speaker from first to ninth, with all other speakers given a 10. The parliamentarian shall rank the speakers in the same fashion.

(b) Each rank shall be converted to a score:

Rank Score

1st 10

2nd 8

3rd 7

4th 6

5th 5

6th 4

7th 3

8th 2

9th 1

The Official Scorer.

(a) The Official Scorer shall call the roll from the seating chart and verify that each member is in the **virtual room** designated for that member.

(b) Using a stopwatch, the Official Scorer shall time speakers and call "Time" at the expiration of three minutes.

Awarding Credit Points.

(a) For each speech, a participant shall receive not more than six points as determined by the Official Scorer.

(b) Points are given for speaking and chairing only; none are awarded for attendance or for clerical duties.

(c) As a student finishes a speech, the Official Scorer shall award from 0 to 6 points.

(d) No speaker may receive more than 24 points in any legislative day.

(e) A student may not speak more than five times per day (not per session) unless no other student wishes to speak. Students may not receive more than five scores per Legislative day (including scores for the chair). If more than five, scores will be for feedback only.

Parliamentary Procedure Review

It is necessary for all Congress participants to have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure and Congress rules. The following suggestions should be helpful. All students can profit from studying them.

- (a) Decisions on all bills and resolutions shall be by standing vote unless a roll call is demanded by one-fifth of the members.
- (b) A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call for division must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.
- (c) Speakers are not to ask for the floor unless they wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker. Debate must alternate from affirmative to negative. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.
- (d) All speeches are limited to three minutes in length. The first affirmative and negative speaker shall receive a mandatory two-minute question and answer period immediately following the three-minute speech. Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates.
- (e) A speaker from the authoring school shall be recognized for the privilege to open the debate on the bill or resolution, but thereafter has no special privilege to be recognized over other members and does not have the privilege to close the debate. This also applies to the author of an amendment.
- (f) Once a bill or resolution is taken up on the floor of the assembly, it no longer belongs to the author; it is the property of the group. It therefore is not correct to ask the author "what the bill (or part of the bill) means". The bill means what it says, and the group is not obligated to accept the author's interpretation of what it means.
- (g) The motion for the previous question should not be overworked. As long as someone has something to say, they should be allowed to say it.
- (h) The parliamentarian is the final authority on Student Congress rules and should correct any deviations from the rules.
- (i) Under no circumstances are members permitted to argue with the presiding officer. The members elected the presiding officer and should abide by his / her decisions unless those decisions grievously violate the rights of the assembly or its members.

Guidelines for Electronic Device Use in Student Congress

- (a) Competitors may use electronic devices with internet capability during the congress.**
- (b) Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the Official Scorer, Parliamentarian or other members of the Congress present.
- (c) Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to **have their cameras on during the congress, but they may mute during other competitor's speeches.**