

YGG

YOUNG GENIUS

5th Annual Young Genius Elementary and Middle School Fall Online Congressional Debate Tournament

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Tournament Docket & Procedures Handbook

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Tournament Location:

Via the platform Yaaty. Link will be emailed to competitors on the tournament date.

Tournament Date:

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Questions/Requests for Additional Information:

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

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30am:	Judge orientation and check-in <i>Mandatory for all judges - if you do not attend, you will be fined \$50</i>
8:30-9:00am:	Welcome Ceremony
9:00-10:30am:	Round 1 of Congressional Debate (Elementary & Middle School Divisions)
9:30-10:30pm:	Round 1 of Elementary Speech
11:00am-12:30pm:	Round 2 of Congressional Debate (Elementary & Middle School Divisions)
11:30am-12:30pm:	Round 2 of Elementary Speech
1:00-2:30pm:	Round 3 of Congressional Debate (Elementary & Middle School Divisions)
1:30-2:30pm:	Round 3 of Competitive Speech
3:00-4:30pm:	Final Round of Congressional Debate (Middle School Division only)
5:00pm:	Awards Ceremony

All times listed above in PDT

Please note: We strongly encourage students to get up from their computers to rest their eyes and stretch their legs in between rounds!

HOW YOUNG GENIUS CONGRESS WILL WORK

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- 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.
- In case of technical difficulties, students have until the end of the scheduled round to sign back in and participate. Judges will allow students who are cut off by their technology to present their speech again.
- 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.
- During tournament rounds, competitors may chat with teammates via Yaatly or Google hangouts, but they may not receive help from coaches, parents, or siblings during the round. They also may not contact the judges directly.

RULES OF DEBATE

- There will be three (3) preliminary rounds for all students. Only students competing in Division 4 (i.e.: advanced Middle School and High School competitors) will advance to a final round. All other competitors will receive certificates of achievement.
- Students will debate one bill/resolution per round. Students are expected to speak at least once per round. They may give a second speech only if time allows, **and everyone in the chamber has had a chance to speak.**
- Rounds have a hard stop time 90 minutes after they begin.
- Topics per round have been set so students do not need to set the docket before the round begins.
- Speakers must raise their name placard to speak, ask questions, vote, or pass motions.
- For Elementary School competitors, Presiding Officers (POs) will be provided by the tournament organizers. For Middle School competitors, POs will be nominated and elected prior to each round. POs may use their PO privilege to present a speech for the topics.
- 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 call for previous questions 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.
- 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 will be broken at the PO’s discretion.
- 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.
- 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 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

ROUND 1 - A Resolution to Increase Deep Sea Exploration

ROUND 2 - A Resolution to Mandate the Creation of Urban Green Spaces

ROUND 3 - A Bill to Permanently Integrate Online Learning

Round 1

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE DEEP SEA EXPLORATION

1. WHEREAS To this date, only about 5 percent of Earth's oceans have been explored and
2. charted by scientists; and
3. WHEREAS Overpopulation, extreme weather, and other threats to humanity's survival on this
4. planet could be either ameliorated or entirely avoided by living under the ocean;
5. and
6. WHEREAS Exploration and colonization of the deep sea would aid in the development of
7. technology that could potentially be used to explore and colonize outer space; and
8. WHEREAS The potential resources that could be found in the ocean, including but not limited
9. to renewable energy sources, precious metals, and new sources for medicines;
10. now, therefore, be it
11. RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States government will
12. substantially increase the budget of the Office of Ocean Exploration and
13. Research in order to accelerate deep sea exploration and research.

Round 2

A RESOLUTION TO MANDATE THE CREATION OF URBAN GREEN SPACES

1. WHEREAS City parks have been proven to help clean the air and improve public health; and
2. WHEREAS Urban green spaces can reduce the ambient temperature of cities by 1°C, thus
3. reducing the urban heat island effect; and
4. WHEREAS Across the country, areas of American cities have been designated “food
5. deserts,” or areas where low-income people have poor access to vegetables,
6. fruits, and other whole foods; now, therefore, be it
7. RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States government will
8. mandate the creation a system of green spaces in all U.S. cities with a population
9. of 50,000 people or more.
10. These green spaces may take the form of so-called “green rooftops,” small parks
11. created in abandoned lots, or vegetated installations in public spaces.
12. These green spaces must grow fresh produce (i.e.: fruits and vegetables), which
13. will be sold at a low cost to the local community.

Round 3

**A BILL TO PERMANENTLY INTEGRATE
ONLINE LEARNING**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The United States Government will require that all public schools across the
2. country will permanently adopt a hybrid model of in-classroom and online
3. instruction, with students receiving at least 50% of their school year instruction
4. online.

5. SECTION 2. The individual states and school districts will retain the right to implement
6. this system in a way that is consistent with their respective needs, and create
7. curriculum models that integrate this new model as they see fit.

8. SECTION 3. Online instruction shall be defined as learning conducted over the Internet.

9. SECTION 4. The Department of Education will be responsible for ensuring states are in
10. compliance with this legislation.

11. SECTION 4. This bill is to be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

YOUNG GENIUS CONGRESS DOCKET ORDER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

ROUND 1 - A Bill to Increase Deep Sea Exploration

ROUND 2 - A Resolution to Mandate the Creation of Urban Green Spaces

ROUND 3 - A Bill to Permanently Integrate Online Learning

FINAL ROUND - A Bill to Discontinue the Use of Pennies

Round 1

A BILL TO INCREASE DEEP SEA EXPLORATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's annual budget will be
2. increased in order to accelerate deep sea exploration and research.

3. SECTION 2. The "deep sea" will be defined as that lowest layer of the ocean extending from
4. 1000 fathoms (1800 m) below sea-level to the sea-bed.

5. SECTION 3. The division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration intended to
6. facilitate ocean exploration generally and, more specifically, deep sea exploration,
7. the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, will receive an additional \$100
8. million in its annual budget, which will be cut from the Department of Defense
9. budget.

10. SECTION 4. This bill is to be implemented precisely one year after passage.

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

Round 2

**A RESOLUTION TO MANDATE THE
CREATION OF URBAN GREEN SPACES**

1. WHEREAS City parks have been proven to help clean the air and improve public health; and
2. WHEREAS Urban green spaces can reduce the ambient temperature of cities by 1°C, thus
3. reducing the urban heat island effect; and
4. WHEREAS Across the country, areas of American cities have been designated “food
5. deserts,” or areas where low-income people have poor access to vegetables,
6. fruits, and other whole foods; now, therefore, be it
7. RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States government will
8. mandate the creation a system of green spaces in all U.S. cities with a population
9. of 50,000 people or more.
10. These green spaces may take the form of so-called “green rooftops,” small parks
11. created in abandoned lots, or vegetated installations in public spaces.
12. These green spaces must grow fresh produce (i.e.: fruits and vegetables), which
13. will be sold at a low cost to the local community.

Round 3

A BILL TO PERMANENTLY INTEGRATE ONLINE LEARNING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The United States Government will require that all public schools across the
2. country will permanently adopt a hybrid model of in-classroom and online
3. instruction, with students receiving at least 50% of their school year instruction
4. online.

5. SECTION 2. The individual states and school districts will retain the right to implement
6. this system in a way that is consistent with their respective needs, and create
7. curriculum models that integrate this new model as they see fit.

8. SECTION 3. Online instruction shall be defined as learning conducted over the Internet.

9. SECTION 4. The Department of Education will be responsible for ensuring states are in
10. compliance with this legislation. Individual states will be responsible for assuming
11. any and all costs associated with the implementation of this legislation.

12. SECTION 4. This bill is to be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

Final Round:

A BILL TO DISCONTINUE THE USE OF PENNIES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. Section 1: The manufacturing of pennies shall be discontinued, as well as the circulation and
2. use of pennies.

3. Section 2: A penny shall be defined as a zinc and copper coin with a monetary value of 1
4. cent in US dollars.

5. Section 3: The United States Department of Treasury shall be in charge of halting use
6. and circulation of pennies and the United States Mint shall ensure the stop of
7. penny manufacturing.
8. A. Citizens may exchange pennies or circulating coinage.
9. B. Places of purchase shall round 1 and 2 cents down to 0, 3 and 4 cents
10. up to 5, 6 and 7 down to 5, 8 and 9 up to 10.
11. C. The pennies shall be recycled and their metals shall be sold to
12. industrial companies.

13. Section 4: This legislation will take effect on January 1st of 2021.

14. Section 5: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.