

YGG

YOUNG GENIUS

**7th Annual Young Genius
Elementary, Middle, and High School Spring
Online Congressional Debate Tournament**

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Tournament Docket & Procedures Handbook

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Tournament Location

Via the platform Yaatly. Link will be emailed to competitors on March 18, 2021.

Tournament Date

Saturday, March 20, 2021

All students will receive certificates ranking them “Very Good,” “Excellent,” or “Superior.” Middle and High School students advancing to the final round will also receive rankings.

Questions/Requests for Additional Information

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

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

All times listed below in PST

7:30 - 8:30AM • Mandatory Judge Check-In/Training

8:30 - 8:45AM • Tournament Welcome

9:00 - 10:15AM • Round 1

10:15 - 10:30AM • Break

10:30 - 11:45AM • Round 2

11:45AM - 12:45PM • Lunch Break

12:45 - 2:00PM • Round 3

2:00 - 2:15PM • Break

2:15 - 3:30PM • Final Round (only for Middle and High School Congress)

3:30 - 3:45PM • Break

3:45PM • Awards Announcement

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 Yaately 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 Middle School and High School competitors will advance to a final round.
- 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 Fast-Track High-Speed Travel

Round 2: A Resolution to Create a National Insect Trash Disposal Program

Round 3: A Bill to Mandate Vocational Training

YOUNG GENIUS CONGRESS DOCKET ORDER FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Round 1: A Resolution to Fast-Track High-Speed Travel

Round 2: A Resolution to Create a National Insect Trash Disposal Program

Round 3: A Bill to Mandate Vocational Training

Final Round: A Bill to Reform the Chocolate Industry

Round 1

A RESOLUTION TO FAST-TRACK HIGH-SPEED TRAVEL

1. WHEREAS Congestion on our nation's roads costs \$140 billion in lost time and productivity;
2. and
3. WHEREAS Expanded options for citizens in rural and suburban communities to commute to
4. urban centers for jobs will result in greater freedom for workers and employers;
5. and
6. WHEREAS Emissions from domestic aviation alone have increased 17% since 1990, to
7. account for 9% of greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. transportation sector;
8. now, therefore, be it
9. RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States allot \$50
10. billion a year to the development of high-speed travel including, but not limited to,
11. high-speed rail and hyperloop technology, to reduce its reliance on air travel.

Round 2
**A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NATIONAL
INSECT TRASH DISPOSAL PROGRAM**

1. WHEREAS United States municipal landfills are rapidly approaching capacity; and
2. WHEREAS According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, food waste is the single
3. largest category of material placed in United States municipal landfills, where it
4. emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas; and
5. WHEREAS Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related
6. methane emissions in the United States; and
7. WHEREAS Around the world, insect farms have proven to be an effective and environmentally
8. friendly method of waste management; now, therefore be it
9. RESOLVED By the Student Congress here assembled that the United States federal
10. government create and fund a system of municipal waste disposal sites, using
11. insects to dispose of food waste and other edible waste.

Round 3
A BILL TO MANDATE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. California State government will require that all California schools that receive
2. state funding, including traditional public and charter schools, must incorporate
3. Career and Technical Education (CTE) as a required course of study for all
4. students in grades 6 through 12.

5. SECTION 2. Career and Technical Education shall be defined as the practice of teaching skills-
6. based careers to students.

7. SECTION 4. The California Department of Education will be responsible for ensuring school
8. districts are in compliance with this legislation.

9. SECTION 4. This bill is to be implemented August 15, 2022.

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

Final Round
A BILL TO REFORM THE CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1. SECTION 1. The United States will impose financial penalties against the top 10 largest
2. chocolate producing companies in the world for as long as they use chocolate
3. produced by child labor
4. A. For those companies based in foreign countries, this will take the form
5. of an import tariff of 15%
6. B. For the CEOs of these foreign companies, this will take the form of
7. personal economic sanctions
8. C. For those companies based in the United State, this will take the form
9. of an annual fine equal to 15% of their annual sales amount
10. D. For the CEOs of these US-based companies, this will take the form of
11. an annual fine of 5% of their personal gross annual income

12. SECTION 2.
13. A. Import tariffs shall be defined as a tax levied by the US government on
14. the value including freight and insurance of imported products;
15. B. Personal economic sanctions shall be defined as asset freezes
16. preventing assets owned by an individual from being sold or moved
17. and/or seizures
18. C. Annual sales amount shall be defined as the revenue that a company
19. derives from the sale of its products in a year
20. D. Personal gross annual income shall be defined as the amount earned
21. by the individual before taxes and deductions are subtracted.

22. SECTION 3. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) and the US Department of the
23. Treasury shall be responsible for the implementation of this legislation.

24. SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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