



Arizona State University

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication Invitational 2023

Congressional Debate Docket – Preliminary Sessions

The tournament will be contested by NSDA rules, except where indicated below. Please be sure that your students are familiar with NSDA policies and parliamentary procedures:

Each session will begin with the election of the presiding officer for that round. Each session will follow NSDA definitions for a change of session.

The agenda for the Preliminary sessions will be set by a caucus in chambers at the beginning of session one. This tournament will use a preset recency list for choosing initial speaking order, using NSDA guidelines for choosing speakers and questioners.

All sessions will use Direct Examination with each questioner receiving a 30 second period. The presiding officer will keep a separate recency chart to determine questioners.

The number of preliminary chambers, and the number who advance from each, will be determined based on total entries at the start of the competition.

Preliminary chamber assignments will be provided one hour prior to the start of debate.

If a school has more competitors than chambers, they will be sectioned in chambers so that one chamber is opened for their judges to participate. One or two scorers and a parliamentarian will be assigned to each preliminary session, depending on the availability of the judge pool. Scorers will rotate; the parliamentarian will stay the same throughout the prelims.

Advancing students will be selected by judge ranks, using NSDA tiebreakers where applicable.

1 - A Bill to increase taxes on the wealthy to increase government revenue

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Increase taxes from the current rate by 50% for each tax group on those
3 who make above \$400,000 as well as limit tax loopholes.

4 **SECTION 2.** These loopholes allow the wealthy to hide their income in tax exempt
5 accounts and thus avoid paying any taxes.

6 **SECTION 3.** This will be done by the IRS, which will be strengthened and empowered
7 with the necessary increase in funding.

8 **SECTION 4.** Implementation will begin within three months of the bill being passed
9 and will be completed within three years.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Davis High School

2 - A Bill to Add LGBTQ+ Education into Curriculum

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall create an all-new curriculum in main elementary
3 core education that includes LGBTQ+ history.

4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions

5 **A.** Subjects that are deemed fit for LGBTQ+ education shall be
6 History, English, and Health. All of which will have the opportunity to
7 teach the history of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

8 **B.** B. LGBTQ+ education shall be defined as the past treatment of
9 LGBT people, the events of Stonewall, and acceptance of the
10 community.

11 **SECTION 3.** Oversight and Funding

12 **A.** The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of
13 this bill.

14 **B.** 1 million dollars shall be used from the Education Department to
15 create this curriculum.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Davis High School.

3 - A Resolution to Break Up Big Tech

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Big Tech companies like Meta, Apple, and Amazon have been in clear
2 violation of anti-trust laws; and,
- 3 **WHEREAS,** These same companies have engaged in harmful, monopolistic practices
4 that not only harm the privacy and health of consumers but also small
5 companies; and,
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Big tech's continual bypassing of Congressional scrutiny is preventing
7 startups and small businesses from expanding; and,
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Tech giants will continue to put the American public at risk without
9 Congressional action; now, therefore, be it enacted that
- 10 **RESOLVED** By the Congress here assembled that legislative action be
11 taken to break up huge corporate conglomerates, like Google, with the
12 intention of breaking them up.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory.

4 - A Bill to Implement a Universal Basic Income

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All U.S. citizens over the age of 18 shall receive a guaranteed Universal Basic
3 Income of \$1,000 every month. The funding for this legislation shall come from
4 abolishing all means tested welfare programs.

5 **SECTION 2.** “Means tested” shall be defined as the decision of if an individual or family
6 qualifies for government assistance based on their income.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services and the Internal Revenue Service
8 shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

9 A. The UBI will be adjusted every 10 years to account for inflation.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect in fiscal year 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory.

5 - A Bill to Promote High-Capacity Public Transit to End Reliance on Automobiles

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall mandate the maintenance of high-
3 capacity public mass transit systems in all counties with a population of at least 1
4 million.

5 **SECTION 2.** “High-capacity” shall be defined as having the capability to serve as the default
6 mode of daily transportation for at least one-fourth of the county’s population.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation shall oversee implementation of this
8 legislation.

9 **A.** Counties which comply with this legislation shall be annually apportioned
10 a sum of money to cover the cost of public transit maintenance.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Brophy College Preparatory.

6 - A Bill to Limit Small Arms Manufacturing in the US to Curtail Illicit Gun Distribution

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government will limit manufacturing of small arms by
3 U.S. companies to 50% of their output in 2021.

4 **SECTION 2.** Small arms are defined as any firearm that can be carried and operated
5 by a single person, including but not limited to pistols, rifles, and
6 shotguns.

7 **SECTION 3.** The ATF shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this
8 legislation

9 A. Any companies that violate the terms of this legislation shall be fined
10 twice the amount of their revenue obtained by illegal sales.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1st, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Brophy College Preparatory

7 - A Bill to Raise Maternity Leave Time

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All publicly held companies shall be required to provide 44 weeks of paid
3 maternity leave time to be taken within a 12-month period.

4 **SECTION 2.** The 44 weeks shall start postpartum. Employees on maternity leave may
5 return to work prior to the end of the 44-week timeframe, however, they
6 may not be required to return until the 44 weeks have been fully
7 exhausted.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor shall oversee enforcement of this act.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mesa High School

8 - A Bill to Give Puerto Rico a Vote

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The territory of Puerto Rico shall not be granted statehood but shall
3 receive full voting representation in Congress and the Electoral College.

4 **SECTION 2.** The initial apportionment shall be two Senators and ten Representatives,
5 subject to reconsideration after the 2030 census.

6 **SECTION 3.** The territorial government of Puerto Rico shall be prohibited from
7 petitioning for statehood under the terms of this act.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mesa High School

9 - The Revitalizing American Interstate Linkage (R.A.I.L.)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall upgrade existing passenger rail infrastructure to
3 facilitate use by electrically-powered high-speed trains. The United States
4 shall also be responsible for procuring high speed trains to facilitate
5 passenger demand.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. Electrically-powered high-speed trains shall be defined as trains whose
7 top speed exceeds 210 miles per hour and run primarily on electric
8 power.

9 B. Existing passenger rail infrastructure shall be defined as infrastructure
10 owned by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

11 C. Upgrades shall be defined as the replacement or improvement of pre-
12 existing tracks, bridges, tunnels, stations, and maintenance facilities
13 deemed unfit to serve high-speed trains.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation shall be responsible for the
15 implementation of this legislation.

16 A. 50 billion dollars shall be given to the Department of Transportation
17 every Fiscal Year. This funding shall be approved by Congress.

18 B. No more than 10 percent of The NRPC's tracks shall be out of service
19 due to the upgrades specified in this legislation.

20 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Desert Vista High School

10 – A Bill to Establish Mandatory Public Service

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Each U.S. Citizen born after January 1, 2006, must complete at least two
3 years of public service by the time of their 30th birthday.

4 **SECTION 2.** This requirement may be satisfied through two full years of service in one
5 of the following: the Armed Forces (including the National Guard), the
6 Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or the National Health Service Corps.

7 **SECTION 3.** The penalties for failing to meet this requirement shall be identical to
8 those that accompany failure to register for the Selective Service when
9 required to do so.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Selective Service System.

11 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

12 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association



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Congressional Debate Docket – Semifinals and Finals

Rules and Guidelines: Semifinals and Finals will each last three hours. Each session will begin with the election of the presiding officer. The agenda will be set by a caucus in chambers.

The Semifinals and Finals will continue to feature direct examination with each questioner receiving a 30 second period. Each chamber will receive a preset initial recency chart

For the Semifinal and Final rounds, competitors will be considered Senators. Legislation is taken from the NSDA monthly dockets.

S1 – A Bill to Fund the Creation of a Monument to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall direct \$250 million to the National Park Service (NPS) to
3 plan, design, and construct a monument in Washington, D.C., honoring
4 and celebrating the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and its inestimable
5 influence on the government and history of these United States.

6 **SECTION 2.** The NPS shall have five years from the date of passage to complete these
7 tasks and open the monument to the public.

8 **SECTION 3.** The NPS is directed to work extensively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs
9 and in particular with the Cayuga Nation, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe,
10 the Oneida Nations of New York and Wisconsin, the Onondaga Nation,
11 the Seneca Nation, the Tonawanda Band of Seneca, the Seneca-Cayuga
12 Nation, and the Tuscarora Nation to ensure this monument is
13 meaningful, authentic, and historically and culturally appropriate.

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

S2 – A Bill to Subsidize Flood Insurance

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall direct \$1 billion annually to the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency (FEMA) to pay the premiums of any homeowners
4 whom FEMA requires to purchase flood insurance and whose household
5 income is less than 400% of the federal poverty level as determined by
6 the Department of Health and Human Services.

7 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall work with FEMA on a year-to-year basis to determine and
8 implement any necessary adjustments to the amount of this funding to
9 more appropriately meet the need outlined by this legislation.

10 **SECTION 3.** Funding for this legislation shall be sourced from a 1% tax increase on
11 annual fossil fuel industry revenue.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

S3 – A Bill to Ban Styrofoam Food Containers

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Restaurants and other providers of prepared meals are henceforth
3 banned from using Styrofoam for packaging and/or serving food and/or
4 beverages.

5 **SECTION 2.** Any establishment found to be in violation of this legislation shall be
6 fined \$100 for each violation. Should the total amount fined to a single
7 establishment ever exceed \$10,000, that establishment shall lose its
8 license(s) to sell food and/or beverages.

9 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Food and Drug Administration.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

F1 – A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Revoke Presidential Veto Power

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

6 **ARTICLE --**

7 **SECTION 1.** The President shall no longer have the right to veto bills sent to them by
8 Congress.

9 **SECTION 2.** As the Constitution stipulates, a bill that the President does not sign
10 within ten days (Sundays excepted) will become law anyway.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
12 legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

F2 – A Bill to Require DNA Evidence for Death Penalty Sentencing

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** No convicted criminal shall be sentenced to death unless DNA evidence
3 linking the criminal to the crime comprises a central element of that
4 conviction, as determined by the judge overseeing the case.

5 **SECTION 2.** Any inmate currently sentenced to death and awaiting the completion of
6 that sentence whose conviction was not significantly predicated on DNA
7 evidence shall have their sentence commuted to life in prison. District
8 attorneys with jurisdiction in the court where the crime was originally
9 tried shall be responsible for making these determinations and shall have
10 one year from the passage of this legislation to do so.

11 **SECTION 3.** If a judge is found to have violated this legislation, this shall serve as
12 compelling grounds for that judge's impeachment.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.

14 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

15 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

F3 – A Bill to Close all Foreign Military Bases

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Within ten years of the passage of this legislation, all U.S. military bases
3 situated within foreign countries shall be closed, their troops and
4 personnel returned to the U.S., and their land and facilities returned
5 unconditionally to each respective nation.

6 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Defense.

7 **SECTION 3.** This shall occur immediately upon passage.

8 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association