



Arizona State University

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication Invitational 2024

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.

This tournament will use a **Final Appeal**, where the author/sponsor will give a 90-second closing speech after Previous Question has been moved and approved. This Final Appeal speech is intended to provide a wrap-up to the argumentation in the round and serves as a “closing argument” of sorts. This speech is considered part of the Authorship/Sponsorship and will not be scored separately or count in precedence/recency.

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 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 Prohibit the Insanity Defense

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All defendants who are sued in a U.S. civil court may not utilize the
3 insanity defense or plead insanity in response.

4 **SECTION 2. A.** The insanity defense shall be defined using the M’Naghten Rules of
5 1843, which argue that a defendant is not responsible for their actions
6 due to a psychiatric disease at the time of the unlawful act without a
7 proper diagnosis at least a month prior to the crime.

8 **B.** All other forms of insanity tests including the Durham Rule, the
9 Irresistible Impulse Rest and the Model Penal Code Test shall have no
10 power in civil court.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice and the Judicial Branch shall oversee the
12 implementation of this legislation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on December 1st, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Castilleja School

2 - A Resolution to De-Prioritize the DRC

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Violent crimes, such as murder, kidnapping, and pillaging, continue
2 throughout the DRC. Road travelers are frequently targeted for ambush,
3 armed robbery, and kidnapping.; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** rampant corruption and expanding mining practices have left over 7
5 million families displaced in the region; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** armed gangs and parts of the government have used violence and child
7 labor to control the mining resources; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** the US government has continued to put in money and incentives to keep
9 this violent cycle going, therefore,
- 10 **RESOLVED,** that the Congress here assembled stop sending oil contracts and
11 investment into the Democratic Republic of Congo; and, be it
- 12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the US stops all diplomatic communication with the Congo
13 until at least 5% of their population gets out from under the poverty line
14 by 2025.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Desert Vista High School.

3 - NATO Responsibility Act

1 **WHEREAS,** Only 7 out of 30 NATO members met the 2% of GDP defense requirement

2 in 2022; and

3 **WHEREAS,** There are growing dangers posed by the Russian Federation after the

4 2022 invasion of Ukraine; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Hundreds of thousands of people are dying at the hands of aggression;

6 and

7 **WHEREAS,** NATO is facing growing pressure to remain strong against growing

8 pressures from outside forces; be it

9 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled shall strongly encourage all NATO

10 members to meet the 2% of GDP defense spending threshold for defense

11 by the year 2026; and, be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That if the threshold is not met by 2026, then the US shall formally

13 withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Phoenix Country Day School.

4 - A Bill to Make Narcan Free and Accessible

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Pharmacies throughout the United States and its territories are directed to maintain a
3 constant supply of naloxone (commonly known by the brand name Narcan) and to provide it
4 at no cost to customers, though they may choose to limit the amount each customer can
5 accept at a given time, if needed, to manage supply.

6 **SECTION 2.** The cost of this medication shall be offset by a 1% tax increase on the revenue of
7 pharmaceutical manufacturers in the United States, which shall be directed into the budget
8 of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that they may finance this legislation. Any
9 excess funds remaining from this legislation at the end of each fiscal year shall be remitted
10 to the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to support substance abuse
11 treatment programs.

12 **SECTION 3.** The FDA is directed to establish a convenient process by which pharmacies may charge the
13 costs of naloxone back to them. The FDA must ensure that reimbursement is prompt and
14 efficient.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FDA, with the exception of Section 2, which shall
16 be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect one year from the date of passage.

18 **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.

5 - A Bill to Fund and Construct Wildlife Crossings

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall apportion \$500 million a year for each of the five years that follow the
3 passage of this legislation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) for the
4 construction of wildlife crossings, where beneficial, over and under the Dwight D.
5 Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate Highway
6 System).

7 **SECTION 2.** Wildlife crossings are defined as bridges over or underpasses/tunnels under a motorway
8 that allow wildlife to traverse the motorway safely and comfortably. To promote wildlife
9 usage, crossings should be designed to incorporate and/or simulate elements of the
10 habitat.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is directed to work with the FHA to
12 determine the best locations to construct these crossings, taking into consideration
13 factors such as risk of highway collisions and disruption of ecosystems and migratory
14 patterns.

15 **SECTION 4.** Funding for this legislation shall be sourced from a one-cent-per-gallon increase on the
16 federal excise tax on the sale of both gasoline and diesel for use as motor fuel.

17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FHA, with the exception of Section 4, which
18 shall be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

19 **SECTION 6.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

20 **SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association.

6 - A Resolution to Encourage the Negotiation of a Coastline for Ethiopia

- 1 **WHEREAS** The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is by far the world’s most populous
2 landlocked nation; and
- 3 **WHEREAS** The lack of a coastline is increasingly creating unsustainable challenges for this
4 budding global power; and
- 5 **WHEREAS** The situation as it currently stands presents a major risk of war in the Horn of
6 Africa, which would not only have devastating humanitarian consequences for
7 the people of that region but would also create enormous economic hardship
8 across the globe; now, therefore be it
- 9 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that the United Nations is called upon to begin
10 an immediate and concerted effort to negotiate on behalf of Ethiopia a lawful
11 and mutually beneficial annexation of the territory of one or more of its
12 neighboring nations that separate it from access to the ocean—those nations
13 being the Republic of Kenya, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of
14 Djibouti, the State of Eritrea, and the Republic of the Sudan—to establish a
15 corridor, however narrow, that allows Ethiopia to set up and utilize a functional
16 seaport; and be it
- 17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress commits to considering how it may leverage its powers on
18 behalf of the United States to contribute funds and other resources to the
19 affected nations that might lead them to accept a favorable deal enabling this
20 territorial transfer.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the National Speech and Debate Association

7 - A Bill to Set Sustainable Maximums for the Nation's Teachers

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All schools within the United States are directed to assign no more than
3 90 students to each teacher within a given school year, and to assign no
4 more than 25 students to a given class period.

5 **SECTION 2.** Any federally funded school or school district that violates this legislation
6 shall lose said funding until such time as compliance is reached.

7 **SECTION 3.** To support compliance with this legislation, Congress shall increase the
8 annual budget of the Department of Education by \$10 billion, with these
9 funds to be used to support schools in hiring additional teachers and
10 building additional classrooms as necessary.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Education.

12 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

13 **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

8 - A Bill to Deprivatize Social Media

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall exercise its rights of eminent domain to appropriate all social
3 media corporations with more than 50 million monthly active users within the
4 United States, as determined by the Federal Communications Commission
5 (FCC). Upon acquisition, Congress shall provide just compensation to these
6 corporations' owners, with fair market value being determined by the
7 Department of the Treasury.

8 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall work with the FCC and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights
9 Division to consolidate all acquired corporations into a single nationalized social
10 media platform that provides an open online forum in which residents and
11 citizens of the U.S. may exercise their First Amendment rights without violating
12 one another's constitutionally protected civil rights. No fees shall be charged,
13 but the platform and all funding for acquisitions shall be sourced from
14 corresponding decreases in the Department of Defense budget as necessary.

15 **SECTION 3.** The 42 USC § 1862w(a)(2) definition of a social media platform shall be utilized: "a
16 website or internet medium that—(A) permits a person to become a registered
17 user, establish an account, or create a profile for the purpose of allowing users
18 to create, share, and view user-generated content through such an account or
19 profile; (B) enables 1 or more users to generate content that can be viewed by
20 other users of the medium; and (C) primarily serves as a medium for users to
21 interact with content generated by other users of the medium."

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FCC.

23 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

24 **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

9 – A Bill to Mandate Compassionate Family Seating on Airplanes

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** No commercial airline may sell tickets to a family unit and charge extra to
3 seat that family unit in adjacent seating, presuming sufficient adjacent
4 seats are available at the time the tickets are purchased.

5 **SECTION 2.** A family unit is defined as one or more parents or legal guardians traveling
6 with one or more of their legal dependent children who are under the
7 age of 16. Adjacent seating is defined as seating that is in the same row
8 and unseparated by other seats or an aisle. If the size of a family unit
9 exceeds the number of truly adjacent seats available on the airplane
10 (whether due to the seating arrangements of the aircraft or to certain
11 seats already having been sold), the definition of adjacency shall be
12 expanded to allow an airline to seat a family unit across one or more
13 aisles from one another or in seats that are directly in front of/behind
14 one another but in separate rows.

15 **SECTION 3.** Any airline that is found to have violated this legislation shall be ordered to
16 refund double the entire cost of the itinerary to the affected family unit.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Federal Aviation Administration
18 (FAA).

19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

20 **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

10 – A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish a Zero Tolerance Policy for Violence on the Floor of Congress

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

5 ARTICLE —

6 **SECTION 1.** Any sitting member of Congress who is found to have threatened, or committed
7 an act of violence against, a fellow Congressperson or against any guest of
8 Congress shall be removed from office and barred for life from once again
9 holding Federal office.

10 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall establish a committee tasked with reviewing alleged acts of
11 violence, whether threatened or executed. The committee must include at least
12 one member from each party for every 50 House seats or five Senate seats held
13 by that party in the U.S. Congress. If there are sufficient unaffiliated members of
14 Congress to qualify for one or more seats, they may convene to select
15 representation as well.

16 **SECTION 3.** Removal from office shall require a two-thirds majority vote from said
17 committee.

18 **SECTION 4.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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 a maximum of three-and-a-half 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.

S1 – The Traveler Privacy Protection Act of 2024

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Transportation Safety Administration will immediately cease all use
3 of facial recognition technology, facial recognition devices, and facial
4 recognition software for any purpose, unless specifically authorized by an
5 act of Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this act.

6 **SECTION 2.** Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 TSA shall dispose of any facial biometric information, including images
8 and videos, obtained through facial recognition technology or facial
9 matching software used by the TSA.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Administrator of the TSA will oversee the removal of facial
11 recognition technology and data. The Secretary of Transportation will
12 verify in writing to Congress no later than 180 days following the
13 enactment date of this act that the requirements of Sections 1 and 2
14 have been fulfilled.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on March 30, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room

S2 – The Fairness for Immigrant Families Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Section 212(a)(9) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
3 1182(a)(9)) is amended to provide the following exceptions to mandatory
4 removal orders:

5 **A.** Removal shall not apply to anyone under 21 years old;

6 **B.** Removal shall not apply if more than three years have passed since
7 the subject was previously removed from the United States and the
8 Secretary of Homeland Security has approved their continued
9 residence in the United States;

10 **C.** Removal shall not apply to someone with an active application for
11 asylum;

12 **D.** Removal shall not apply to someone who has been the victim of
13 human trafficking;

14 **E.** Removal shall not apply to a minor, someone who has graduated
15 from high school, has served or is currently serving in the armed
16 forces, or is enrolled in higher education.

17 **SECTION 2.** All entry points along the border between Mexico and the United States
18 shall be closed, with the exception of one entry per border state.
19 Customs and Border Patrol shall determine the optimal entry point for
20 each state.

21 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security will oversee the implementation
22 of this legislation.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room

S3 – A Bill to Ban Single Use Plastic Utensils

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 disposable plastic utensils for 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, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room

F1 – A Bill to Increase Funding for US Cyber Command

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

2 **SECTION 1.** A sum of fifty billion dollars will be redirected from the general
3 Department of Defense budget specifically to United States Cyber
4 Command, for the express purpose of defending against foreign cyber-
5 attacks.

6 **SECTION 2.** USCYBERCOM shall assume authority for all governmental and civilian
7 cyber defenses.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall oversee the redirection of funding.

9 **SECTION 4.** This shall occur immediately upon passage.

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

1

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room

F2 – A Bill to Protect our Interests in East Asia

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will deploy military personnel and provide additional
3 military assistance to South Korea and Japan in order to deter threats
4 from North Korea.

5 **SECTION 2.** If deemed necessary by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, such assistance may
6 include the deployment of tactical nuclear weaponry to the region.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall take responsibility for overseeing the
8 deployment of personnel and weaponry.

9 **SECTION 4.** This assistance will begin immediately upon passage and shall last for a
10 period of two years, unless renewed through the legislative process.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room

F3 – The Ransomware Protection Act

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

2 **SECTION 1.** No institution or organization associated with the federal or a state
3 government, or which receives federal funds, will provide payment to
4 mitigate or reverse the effects of a ransomware attack.

5 **SECTION 2.** Ransomware is defined as an electronic attack which accesses critical
6 data or files and prohibits the owner or operator to reach or use said data
7 or files unless a “ransom” is paid to the attacker.

8 **SECTION 3.** All federal departments will work to insure they are protected from
9 ransomware attacks, and the Office of Management and Budget will work
10 to prevent payments to attackers.

11 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect on March 31, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the ASU HDSHCI Tab Room