



## *Colonial Williamsburg*

### **Scoring rubric overview for Revolutionary Rhetoric's 2025 Congress Event**

Scoring for Congress at Revolutionary Rhetoric is designed so competitors focus on all aspects of the event. In addition to giving great speeches, competitors need to craft good bills and get them passed out of committee and out of the chamber. They must promote their party's agenda by passing their party's bills and limiting success for the other party while avoiding gridlock.

**Total points available for the event: 100 regular points and 75 bonus points**

**Legislation score: maximum of 25 regular points and 15 bonus points.**

**Write good legislation relevant to your committee and party assignments. Bills passed at each stage receive bonuses, while gridlock penalizes legislation even if it passes**

- Two judges outside the chamber score each piece of legislation independently on criteria such as whether it fits the time period, the depth of thought, research, and analysis used, and relevance to the committee assignment and goals of their party.
- The two scores are averaged. The averaged score receives bonus points for whether the bill passes in committee and, if passed and docketed in the House, passes the House.

**Committee score: Maximum of 25 regular points and 10 bonus points.**

**Present your bill to the committee for passage. Speak on at least one other bill. Fight for your party and avoid gridlock, while actively participating throughout the meeting**

- Each committee has one judge evaluating floor speeches, and a parliamentarian serving as committee chair evaluates the competitor's overall effectiveness as a committee member.

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- The speech judge's score is worth 65% of the overall score for committee work. Like a judge in a "regular" Congress event chamber, they evaluate for factors such as persuasiveness, organization, evidence, analysis, and delivery.
  - Each competitor is expected to give one authorship speech and at least one speech on another bill during the committee meeting. Not meeting this threshold will incur a significant penalty. Only the authorship speech score and the highest-scoring non-authorship speech will factor into the competitor's overall score.
- The committee chair ballot is worth 35% of the overall committee score. They evaluate factors such as quality of questions, amendments, and other participation, knowledge and use of the rules, and effectiveness in meeting individual, party and chamber goals.
- Scores are combined to form the committee score, subject to these modifications:
  - If one party passes more bills than the other, *all committee members from that party* receive a 10-point bonus for being more successful in pushing their agenda.
  - If the committee does not pass at least the minimum number of bills noted in the rules, *all committee members* will be assessed a 50% penalty for gridlock.

**Preliminary chamber session score: Maximum of 25 regular points and 20 bonus points.**

**If your bill is docketed, present it, get it passed, and speak on one other bill. If you do not have a docketed bill docket, speak on three of the docketed bills. Be mindful to fight for your party and avoid gridlock while being an effective participant throughout the session.**

- Every room has two judges who evaluate floor speeches, and a parli serving as Speaker who submits a ballot on a member's overall effectiveness in the Chamber
- The combined scores of the speech judges make up 65% of the Chamber work score. As in a "regular" Congress event, they evaluate each speech individually on factors such as persuasiveness, organization, evidence, analysis, and delivery.
  - *If a competitor has a bill docketed*, they are required to give an authorship speech and at least one more speech on another bill. The authorship speech counts double. Only the authorship speech score and the highest-scoring non-authorship speech will factor into the competitor's chamber score.
  - *If a competitor does not have a bill docketed*, they are required to give at least three speeches on docketed bills. Only the three highest-scoring non-authorship speeches will factor into the competitor's chamber score.
    - If a competitor does not complete the minimum number of speeches, they will receive a zero for each missed speech.

- The Speaker's ballot is worth 35% of the overall chamber score. The Speaker judges on factors such as the quality of questions and amendments, knowledge and use of the rules, and effectiveness in meeting individual, party, and chamber goals.
- These scores are combined to form the Chamber score, subject to these modifications:
  - If one party passes more bills than the other, *all members from that party* receive a 20-point bonus for having been more successful in pushing their agenda.
  - If the chamber does not pass at least the minimum number of bills noted in the rules, *all House members* will be assessed a 50% penalty for gridlock.

**Final chamber session score: Maximum of 25 regular points and 20 bonus points.**

If you advance to the final chamber, scoring works exactly the same as in the preliminary chamber,