



# Penn for Youth Debate

## 41st Annual Liberty Bell

### Classic

February 13-14, 2016

Congressional Debate

Semifinals Packet

## CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 13th

8:30 AM Congressional Debate Meeting for All Judges and Competitors

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM Round 1

12:30 AM – 3:00 PM Round 2

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM Round 3

### Sunday, February 15th

8:00 AM Meeting for Semi-Finalists and Out Round Judges

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM Semi-Finals

12:30 AM – 3:00 PM Finals

### **Important Note:**

**The information in this packet is tentative with regard to preliminary and elimination round format. If numbers drop significantly between the release of this packet and the beginning of competition, the tournament reserves the right to adjust the numbers and procedures for semifinals, etc., accordingly.**

## Official Procedural Rules

The rules contained herein are designed to promote procedural unity among the chambers.

They are subject to change by the staff at any time, but they may NOT be altered or ignored through a suspension of the rules by the chamber.

--**DECORUM:** Each break round chamber is designated as a SENATE. A member of the Senate is always referred to as "Senator." The Presiding Officer of the Senate is addressed as "Mister/Madame President."

--**LEGISLATIVE DAY:** A legislative day is one session; speaker order (recency) resets after each session.

--**RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS:** The RECENCY system, as explained by the National Speech and Debate Association, is the required method for recognizing speakers at this tournament. Presiding Officers are required to use this form of recognition. Individual recency is to be used at all times; other systems are prohibited!

--**QUESTIONING:** A MANDATORY two minute questioning period follows all AUTHORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, and SPONSORSHIP ON AMENDMENT speeches; a two-minute questioning period also follows the FIRST NEGATIVE speech on any item of legislation. The Presiding Officer recognizes legislators who wish to ask a question of a speaker; the speaker MAY NOT perform this function him/herself. All other speeches will have a mandatory one-minute questioning period that MAY NOT be suspended. Direction questioning does not apply to the semi-final round. The PO has an obligation to rule "two-part," misleading, or irrelevant questions OUT-OF-ORDER during preliminary and semifinal debate.

--**LEGISLATION SPONSORSHIP:** Sponsorship is determined by recency. The sponsor becomes accountable for the mechanics of the bill and **must** yield to two minutes of questioning from the chamber.

--**VOTING:** The PO determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber, EXCEPT:

1. For final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal the chair, a recorded vote must be taken.
2. On all other votes, "voice voting" is acceptable. A recorded vote must follow if any member asks for a division.
3. When a member of the chamber moves for a roll call vote and the motion is agreed to by 1/5 of the chamber.

ALL simple majority votes are based upon the number of legislators PRESENT and VOTING in the chamber; therefore, the PO may not call for or count abstentions. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, 1/5, etc.), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators PRESENT in the chamber. Because of this system, the PO must track the number of legislators in the chamber at all times.

--**AMENDMENTS:** Legislators submit amendments to the PO in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment. Once the motion is made, the PO decides if the amendment is germane. The PO may consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision. If the amendment is found NOT germane, the chair rules it OUT OF ORDER and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, the chamber considers the amendment. In this case, the PO reads the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members PRESENT in the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. There is no minimum cycle requirement for amendments, so legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a SPONSORSHIP speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the SPONSORSHIP speech on the basis of recency; the author of the amendment is NOT guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards recency. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment.

## Semifinal Competition Format

**Thirty-five (35)** contestants will advance to a Semifinal Round, which will feature two chambers of competition. **Two (2) Scorers and a Parliamentarian** will adjudicate each of these chambers.

The *Scorers* evaluate every speech that is given in a session, rating them on a scale of 1 to 6 (1 is low; 6 is high). The points awarded by a *Scorer* for a given speech can thus be used to determine NFL points for that speech. The *Parliamentarian* keeps notes on the overall performance of each legislator and will write formal ballots, including an evaluation for each Presiding Officer, awarding him/her up to 18 NFL points on the basis of his/her performance during a given session.

At the conclusion of the Semifinal Round, each of the **two Scorers and the Parliamentarian** will independently nominate **eight students** for *Best Legislator* during the session. Each *Scorer's* nomination as well as the Parliamentarian's nomination shall be converted into credits by the Tabulation Staff with the 1<sup>st</sup> place legislator receiving 8 credits, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place legislator receiving 7, and so on. Those students who were not ranked by the *Scorer* will receive zero (0) credits from that *Scorer*. The three students from each chamber who have earned the highest number of judge credits (the two scorers' ranks + the Parliamentarian) during the Preliminary Sessions will advance to the Semifinal Round.

Once these students have been identified and advanced, the tabulation staff will release a preferential ballot composed of those students who ranked fourth through ninth on the basis of judge credits. Each student ballot will be worth one vote in this election, with the ballot of the *Parliamentarian* breaking any ties.

If there is a tie in determining nominees for the preferential election, the tie will be broken using inverse reciprocal ranks, followed by head-to-head competition, followed by *Parliamentarian's* preference. If a tie remains, additional nominees may be added to the ballot. The three most preferred students, as determined by a vote of their peers, will advance to the final round.

Finally, the highest-ranking student on the *Parliamentarian's* rank form, who has not already advanced will be considered the Parli "save," and will be last student from the chamber to become a semi-finalist.

Thus, seven legislators qualify for the Final Round from each chamber as follows

1. 3 students on the basis of *total judge credits*
2. 3 students on the basis of *preferential balloting*
3. 1 student on the basis of *Parliamentarian's Preference*

**B/R #S1**  
**A BILL TO CREATE A CORPORATE HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY TAX CREDIT**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The language of 26 US Code § 48 shall be amended to include standards  
3 and qualifications for receiving a corporate hydroelectric power tax credit.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. Upon passage, the Office of the Law Revision Council shall begin the  
5 immediate revision of 26 US Code § 48 to include language that  
6 encompasses the use and development of hydroelectric power.

7 B. The Department of Energy shall advise the Office of Law Revision  
8 Council on the development of standards and qualifications necessary to  
9 receive a hydroelectric energy tax credit.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy in conjunction with the Office of the Law  
11 Revision Council shall be responsible for enforcing this legislation.

12 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented immediately upon passage. The revised  
13 language of 26 US Code § 48 shall be implemented in FY 2018.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*UPENN Liberty Bell Classic  
Congressional Debate Tab Staff*

**B/R #S2**

**A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THE EUROPEAN UNION’S LONG TERM STABILITY**

1 **WHEREAS,** The United Kingdom is holding a referendum in June of 2016 to determine  
2 whether it will remain a member of the European Union; and

3 **WHEREAS,** A “Brexit” could irreparably damage the British and European Union’s  
4 economies and hegemony; and

5 **WHEREAS,** A “Brexit” would change the balance of power in the European Union pushing  
6 the Franco-German partnership to the brink; and

7 **WHEREAS,** The death of the Franco-German partnership could effectively be the death knell  
8 of the entire European Union; now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled condemns the British referendum to  
10 leave the European Union; and, be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States actively engages in the negotiations between  
12 the United Kingdom and the European Union to help end trade and economic  
13 disagreements and to ensure long term regional stability.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*UPENN Liberty Bell Classic  
Congressional Debate Tab Staff*



**B/R #S3**  
**A BILL TO EXPAND THE JURISDICTION OF FEDERAL FIRE COMPANIES TO COMBAT THE  
THREAT OF FOREST FIRES**

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The Jurisdiction Federal Fire Companies shall be expanded to include state and  
3 municipal land and private properties. \$25 Billion shall be distributed between to  
4 the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Labor, and the U.S. Forest  
5 Service to increase the number of firefighting personnel on duty, create new fire  
6 companies and stations, and develop and maintain firefighting equipment.

7 **SECTION 2.** A. Private Properties shall be defined as any residence, building, or property  
8 owned by a private citizen or company

9 B. State and Municipal Land shall be defined as any and all properties owned and  
10 operated by a state or municipal government

11 C. Federal Fire Companies shall be defined as fire companies that are operated  
12 and maintained by the federal government of the United States.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Dept. of Labor and Bureau of Land Management in conjunction with the  
14 U.S. Forest Service shall oversee the implementation of this bill.

15 A. The Bureau of Land Management shall be responsible for constructing and  
16 maintaining fire fighting facilities.

17 B. The Dept. of Labor shall be responsible for managing all federally employed  
18 firefighting personnel.

19 C. The U.S. Forest Service shall establish a national monitoring network to  
20 track fire threats nation-wide to improve the response of federal fire  
21 companies.

22 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect in FY 2018.

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
UPENN Liberty Bell Classic  
Congressional Debate Tab Staff*