

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

- A. Public Forum Debate may more appropriately be compared to engagements like a Presidential debate or CNN's Crossfire program. Students present dueling conversational arguments with limited and regulated amounts of clash -- or direct conflict and refutation among speakers. This approach focuses arguments while promoting an atmosphere of discussion. Thus, it is a team debate with an emphasis on conversational delivery, lay judging and regulated argumentation.
- B. A Public Forum Debate team shall consist of two members.
- C. Immediately prior to each debate, there shall be a coin flip. The team winning the flip will select either the side (pro or con) or the speaking position (first or second) that they prefer. The team losing the flip is then allowed to choose their preference for side or speaker position (whichever the winning team did not choose).
- D. The time and order of speakers shall be as follows_(note that the final speeches shall be extended from 1 minute to 2 minutes):

NOTE: Each team will be allowed a total of 3 minutes of preparation time during the course of the debate to be divided as it sees fit.

NOTE: Teams using flash drives will officially end their prep time when the flash drive is physically removed from the computer.

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| First Speaker - Team A..... | 4 Minutes |
| First Speaker - Team B..... | 4 Minutes |
| Crossfire | 3 Minutes |
| Second Speaker - Team A | 4 Minutes |
| Second Speaker - Team B | 4 Minutes |
| Crossfire | 3 Minutes |
| Summary - First Speaker - Team A..... | 3 Minutes |
| Summary - First Speaker - Team B..... | 3 Minutes |
| Grand Crossfire | 3 Minutes |
| Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A | 2 Minutes |
| Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B | 2 Minutes |

No grace time will be given for debate speeches.

- E. The distribution of evidence, visual aids and published material to debate judges is prohibited, unless requested by the judge.
- F. Judging shall be governed by the provisions in Section 6-B-1d.
- G. Judging Criteria:
 - 1. Analysis: Did the debater clearly explain the most important issues in the topic?
 - 2. Evidence: Did the debater support arguments with facts and expert opinions?
 - 3. Reasoning: Did the conclusions reached by the debater flow from the evidence?
 - 4. Crossfire: Were questions relevant and brief? Were answers on point?
 - 5. Rebuttal: Did the debater effectively counter the arguments of the opponents?
 - 6. Delivery: Was the debater's delivery clean, pleasant, and easily understood?
 - 7. No plan arguments should be presented by any debaters
 - 8. In the final analysis the winning team should be the one which presented the more believable position.
- H. Unethical Conduct: Students participating in interscholastic debate are expected to follow all rules of the event and be ethical in their conduct and practices while preparing for or during debate. All conduct and actions should meet the rules of the event. These same actions should be honest, fair, reputable and good for the activity.

It is the responsibility of the speaker to orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round: primary author(s)' name (last) and year of publication. Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and year must be given orally only for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation. The full written citation must be provided if requested by an opponent or judge.

 - 1. Challenging Evidence: It shall be the responsibility of the opponent(s) only to challenge the opposition for the falsification or fabrication of evidence.
 - a) Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence shall be made on substantive grounds.
 - b) The challenger must have either the original source or a copy of the source being cited, or
 - c) The challenger must demonstrate that reasonable search has not been able to locate the source. (Such as copies of relevant pages in "Books in Print," "Readers Guide," "P.A.I.S.," etc.)
 - 2. Procedure of Challenge:
 - a) The challenge must occur during the round.
 - b) The judge(s) shall make note of the challenge with the round continuing. If evidence is taken from a "handbook" and better evidence is provided the judge(s) shall weigh in the regular decision.

- c) Entrants shall report to the Tournament manager along with school directors. The manager shall hear the evidence then if needed convene the grievance committee.
- d) If challenge is upheld the entrant(s) challenged shall be disqualified from the Tournament and lose that round with no other ballots from previous rounds being altered.
 - i. Should a disqualification occur at a District Tournament in Rounds 1, 2 or 3 a fill team, if available, shall be required to provide an entry to complete the preliminary rounds. If a disqualification should occur at the State Tournament the disqualified team shall forfeit all remaining rounds.
 - ii. Should the disqualification occur in an elimination round, the challenger(s) shall advance to the next round.
- I. Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc. shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, server outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants. (Ex: Palm/Treo/Blackberry/etc.).
- J. A violation of any rule/regulation for this event will result in disqualification from the event. Any official protest of a disqualification shall be directed to and ruled upon by the Tournament grievance committee who has the authority to overturn a disqualification.