



FCDI STATE 
CHAMPIONSHIP
— APRIL 20, 2024 | ORLANDO, FLORIDA —

EVENT RULES

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CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

RULES

- ▶ Congressional Debate sessions must be a minimum of 90 minutes and maximum of 120 minutes.
- ▶ Election of a presiding officer:
 - Students may nominate themselves or another competitor as presiding officer for the chamber.
 - Nominated students for presiding officer must be selected by a majority vote of the student chamber. If there is not a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is removed from the running and voting occurs again until a candidate received a majority.
 - Presiding officers will receive a gavel at the start of the round.
- ▶ Speaking
 - The presiding officer must recognize the author of the legislation, if the author is not present in the chamber the presiding officer will call for a sponsor.
 - The presiding officer must recognize speakers in order of recency. Should multiple competitors wish to speak, the competitor who spoke least recently must be recognized. Recency is reset for each session.
- ▶ Participants must conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner throughout the debate. Personal attacks, disruptive behavior, or disrespectful language are not tolerated.
- ▶ Speakers should address the chair or presiding officer when speaking, adhere to parliamentary procedure, and follow established rules of order. Interruptions, side conversations, or out-of-turn remarks should be avoided.

EXTEMPORANEOUS DEBATE

RULES

▶ TOPIC SELECTION

Participants are given a resolution (topic) related to current events, politics, economics, civics or government.

▶ PREPARATION TIME

Participants are given 30 minutes to prepare their case after receiving the topic. During this preparation time, they can research, gather information, and organize their thoughts. **Coaches and/or adults may not assist students during preparation time.**

▶ EVIDENCE AND CITATIONS

Participants should support their arguments with relevant evidence, statistics, examples, and quotations from credible sources. They should provide citations for their evidence to demonstrate credibility and allow for fact-checking.

▶ INTERNET

Students are allowed to access the internet during the round but are not allowed to communicate with anyone other than their partner.

▶ AI

Use of AI is prohibited.

▶ FAIRNESS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Participants should maintain a respectful and sportsmanlike demeanor throughout the debate. They should avoid personal attacks, logical fallacies, and other forms of misconduct.

▶ SPEAKING TIMES

SPEECH	TIME LIMIT
Proposition Constructive	2 min
Cross Examination of Proposition	1 min
Opposition Constructive	2 min
Cross Examination of Opposition	1 min
Mandatory Prep Time	1 min
Proposition Rebuttal	2 min
Opposition Rebuttal	2 min
Mandatory Prep Time	1 min
Proposition Rebuttal	2 min
Opposition Rebuttal	2 min

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

RULES

▶ LOGICAL REASONING

Debaters should use logical reasoning and sound evidence to support their arguments, avoiding fallacies or unsupported assertions.

▶ RESPECTFUL CONDUCT

Debaters must conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner throughout the debate, avoiding personal attacks or disrespectful language.

▶ INTERNET

Students are allowed to access the internet during the round but are not allowed to communicate with anyone other than their partner.

▶ AI

Use of AI is prohibited.

▶ FAIRNESS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Participants should maintain a respectful and sportsmanlike demeanor throughout the debate. They should avoid personal attacks, logical fallacies, and other forms of misconduct.

▶ SPEAKING TIMES

SPEECH	TIME LIMIT
Affirmative Constructive	6 min
Negative Cross Examination	3 min
Negative Constructive	7 min
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 min
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 min
Negative Rebuttal	6 min
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 min

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

RULES

▶ SPEAKING TIMES

SPEECH	TIME LIMIT
First Speaker (Team A)	4 min
First Speaker (Team B)	4 min
First Crossfire	3 min
Second Speaker (Team A)	4 min
Second Speaker (Team B)	4 min
Second Crossfire	3 min
Summary (First Speaker, Team A)	3 min
Summary (First Speaker, Team B)	3 min
Grand Crossfire	3 min
Final Focus (Second Speaker, Team A)	2 min
Final Focus (Second Speaker, Team B)	2 min

*Total of 3 minutes of prep time per team.

▶ COIN TOSS

A coin toss will be used to determine the organization of the round. Winner selects either pro/con OR speaking order. The remaining option of pro/con OR speaking order is chosen by the team which lost the coin toss.

▶ TEAM STRUCTURE

Public Forum debates are typically conducted between two teams, each consisting of two debaters. One team is designated as the “affirmative” side, which supports the resolution, and the other team is designated as the “negative” side, which opposes the resolution.

▶ RESOLUTION

The debate is centered around a resolution, which is a statement or proposition on a current event or policy issue. The resolution is provided by the tournament organizer, and it is the topic that the debaters will argue for or against.

▶ CROSS FIRE

During the crossfire period, debaters have the opportunity to ask each other questions directly.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE **RULES (CONT.)**

▶ **TIME LIMITS**

Each speech and rebuttal has a predetermined time limit.

▶ **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Judges evaluate debaters based on their ability to present clear, logical arguments, provide evidence to support their claims, effectively refute the arguments of the opposing team, and communicate persuasively. Judges may also consider factors such as organization, delivery, and responsiveness to the resolution.

▶ **INTERNET**

Students are allowed to access the internet during the round but are not allowed to communicate with anyone other than their partner.

▶ **AI**

Use of AI is prohibited.

▶ **FAIRNESS AND SPORTSMANSHIP**

Participants should maintain a respectful and sportsmanlike demeanor throughout the debate. They should avoid personal attacks, logical fallacies, and other forms of misconduct.

DECLAMATION RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 10-minute time maximum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Speeches exceeding 10:30 will receive a 3-rank deduction

▶ SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED

Using a script or notes is allowed, however the use of notes throughout the speech, will result in a 3-rank penalty.

▶ SELECTION OF MATERIAL

Material used for Declamation speeches must be from a published speech or a literary work that has been previously delivered by another speaker. The piece should be engaging, impactful, and relevant to the audience.

▶ AUTHOR CITATION

Participants must attribute the authorship of the declamation piece at the beginning or end of the performance. Acknowledge the original speaker or writer of the piece. If the participant does not attribute authorship, the participant will receive a 3-rank penalty.

▶ PROPS

No props, costumes, or visual aids are allowed.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 10-minute time maximum
 - 30 second grace period allowed
- Speeches exceeding 10:30 will receive a 3-rank deduction

▶ CONTENT

- Glorification of violence or drug use is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- If a speech contains mature content, the audience must be made aware of this and given a chance to leave before the speech starts.

▶ SELECTION OF MATERIAL

Movement is allowed and encouraged. Competitors may not touch the floor.

▶ SCRIPTS/NOTES

Performance must be memorized. Using a script or notes is allowed, however the use of notes throughout the speech, will result in a 3-rank penalty.

▶ PROPS

No props, costumes, or visual aids are allowed.

DUO INTERPRETATION

RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 10-minute time maximum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Speeches exceeding 10:30 will receive a 3-rank deduction

▶ CONTENT

- Glorification of violence or drug use is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- If a speech contains mature content, the audience must be made aware of this and given a chance to leave before the speech starts.

▶ MOVEMENT

Movement is allowed and encouraged. Competitors may not touch the floor or make eye contact with each other.

▶ SCRIPTS/NOTES

Performance must be memorized. Using a script or notes is allowed, however the use of notes throughout the speech, will result in a 3-rank penalty.

▶ PROPS

No props, costumes, or visual aids are allowed.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 7-minute speech length maximum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Speeches exceeding 7:30 will receive a 3-rank penalty

▶ BEFORE THE ROUND

Students must report to the Extemporaneous Speaking prep room 30 minutes before the round begins.

▶ PREP BEGINS

A staff member in the prep room calls out student names based upon a pre-assigned speaker order. When a student's name is called, **the student will approach the draw table and select one of three available prompts.**

The student will then prepare for thirty minutes to deliver a speech answering the chosen topic (write down the time they began and end and warn them when they have 5 five minutes remaining and when they need to leave).

When prep time is up, the student reports to the competition room to deliver a seven-minute speech. Students may access research brought with them to the tournament during the 30-minute preparation period. We refer to these resources as files.

▶ USE OF NOTES

Use of notes during the round is not allowed. Use of notes will result in a 3-rank penalty.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

- 30 second grace period allowed
- Students that prep and speak for longer than 7:30 must not rank above students that spoke within the given time frame.

▶ CONTENT ORIGINALITY

- While speakers have limited time to prepare, their speeches need to contain original content created on the spot.
- Speakers should avoid memorized or rehearsed material.

▶ PREPARATION TIME

Judges will be provided with an envelope with printed out topics for the round.

Judges should check the speaking order as listed on your Speechwire ballot. The name on the top goes first, and so on.

Judges will instruct the first speaker to stay in the room and send out the other-competitors.

After the first speaker is finished and leaves you will call in the 2nd speaker, and so on.

The speaker will draw three topics, choose one and put the other two back.

When they return the other two topics, you will start a 7-minute timer/stopwatch. This can be divided up between prep and speaking as the competitor desires.

Students can write notes to prepare but cannot bring them up to speak.

▶ NOTES

Using notes is allowed during preparation, however competitors must not use notes throughout the speech. Use of notes during the speech will result in a 3-rank penalty.

JUST TALK

RULES

▶ **TIME LIMITS**

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 6-minute time maximum
- 3-minute time minimum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Pieces under 3:00 or over 6:30 will receive a 3-rank penalty.

▶ **PERFORMANCE**

The students can sing for part of the speech. Dance for part of it. Read a book, magazine, newspaper, or writing on the wall---They Just Talk!

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

RULES

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 10-minute time maximum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Performances exceeding 10:30 will receive a 3-rank penalty.

▶ NOTES

No notes or scripts are allowed. Use of notes or scripts will result in a 3-rank penalty.

▶ NOTES

Visual aids are allowed. If the student uses a visual aid in their piece, it should be well thought out and tie directly to their speech. There must be no electronic components of the visual aid.

ORAL INTERPRETATION

EVENT RULES

ONE

An interpreter reads either prose or poetry selections while holding a script. Students must prepare separate prose and poetry selections, which they will perform in alternating rounds. In any given round, a judge will hear either all prose or all poetry.

TWO

The literature selection should come from a single piece. Poetry selection can be either a single piece, a cutting, or a series of short pieces united by theme or author. Literature includes all forms of prose or poetry, fiction or nonfiction. Dramas such as plays, monologues are prohibited, as are oratorical compositions.

THREE

The author's words may not be altered except that cutting is allowed. A reordering of lines or scenes or sections of scenes is allowed as long as the intent of the author is not changed. Speakers may not reassign lines from one character to another or cut in a way that creates dialogue or scenes that did not exist in the literature.

FOUR

Since this is a reading, a manuscript is required. The manuscript consists of a copy of the selection placed into a small black binder. Students may not read from the original source.

FIVE

Students should keep eye contact between the audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Students who fail to maintain the semblance of reading must not be ranked first.

SIX

No costumes or props are allowed with the exception of the black book which may be used throughout the presentation. The student's clothing is not permitted to be used as a prop or costume.

SEVEN

Walking is not permitted. Movement should be minimal with students mostly "planted" in their location. Students will still typically step forward for their introductions. Only the speaker's feet may touch the ground; for example, touching a knee to the floor is not permitted.

PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

EVENT RULES

ONE

An interpreter uses multiple sources from various genres; including but not limited to, poetry, prose and drama that are united by a singular theme to create a 10-minute dramatic reading performance with a 30-second grace period. Students perform while holding a script.

TWO

The selections may be cut together in any order the performer sees fit in order to tell a story or illustrate the theme. However, the cutting should respect the message or intent of the original authors. Speakers may not cut in a way that creates dialogue or scenes in one particular piece that did not exist in the literature or change the point of view from third person to first person. Limited changes to create transitions or to eliminate profanity are allowed.

THREE

Since this is a reading, a manuscript is required. The manuscript consists of a copy of the selection placed into a small black binder. Students may not read from the original source.

FOUR

Students should keep eye contact between the audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Students who fail to maintain the semblance of reading must not be ranked first.

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ORIGINAL ORATORY

EVENT RULES

Oratory is a speech of up to ten minutes that must have been composed by the student delivering it and must be memorized.

▶ TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- 10-minute time maximum
- 30 second grace period allowed
- Performances exceeding 10:30 will receive a 3-rank penalty

▶ OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the oration is to persuade. Any other purpose, such as to inform or entertain should be secondary. The oratory may be presented as a problem and a solution.

▶ VISUAL AIDS

Visual and audio aids of any kind are not permitted.

▶ DIRECT QUOTES

No more than one-hundred and fifty words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other form of speech or writing.

POLICY DEBATE

EVENT RULES

▶ SPEAKING TIMES

SPEECH	TIME LIMIT
First Affirmative Constructive	7 min
Cross Examination	2 min
First Negative Constructive	7 min
Cross Examination	2 min
Second Affirmative Constructive	7 min
Cross Examination	2 min
Second Negative Constructive	7 min
Cross Examination	2 min
First Negative Rebuttal	4 min
First Affirmative Rebuttal	4 min
Second Negative Rebuttal	4 min
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	4 min

▶ RESOLUTION

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▶ CROSSFIRE

During the crossfire period, debaters have the opportunity to ask each other questions directly.

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▶ JUDGING CRITERIA

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