

NATIONAL
FORENSIC
LEAGUE



SPEECH & DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY

2012-2013

Updated: June 19, 2013

National Tournament Operations Manual

National Forensic League

The Lincoln Financial Group/National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament is the largest academic competition in the world. To attend, students must place among the top competitors at one of the League's 108 district tournaments. Qualifiers to the national tournament will compete for more than \$200,000 in college scholarships.

The National Forensic League is committed to providing every student a fair and impartial competition experience. This document provides the specific procedures established by the Board of Directors. Tournament ombudsmen are available to answer questions and field protests regarding infraction of rules herein enumerated.

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Entry Requirements

Official Notice: All schools must register ONLINE for the 2013 Lincoln Financial Group / National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament by visiting www.NFLnationals.org/registration. You must read all information below before clicking the link entitled "BEGIN REGISTERING." Direct all questions to the national office by calling Jackie Oakes at (920) 748-6206 or by emailing jackie.oakes@nationalforensicleague.org.

Instructions

- 1) **Registration:** National Tournament registration is available at www.NFLnationals.org/registration. Coaches register by clicking the link entitled "BEGIN REGISTERING." Although the entire registration process does not have to be completed in one sitting, coaches must complete the online process, **print out** ALL designated paperwork, and send with ALL appropriate fees to the national office before the entry will be considered official.
- 2) **Supervision:** In order to compete in the National Tournament, each student must be supervised by an adult approved by the principal. The adult supervisor must be the student's coach, a school district faculty member or administrator, or the child's own parent(s). The supervising adult must stay at the same lodging with student(s) under his/her supervision. Students without an accredited supervisor staying in the same lodging will not be permitted to participate in the tournament. Coaches from other school districts may not be the adult supervisor without prior written permission of both school district superintendents submitted to the League before the entry will be accepted.

- 3) **Fees:** Payment must accompany your registration materials. See below:

Policy, Public Forum, or Duo Entry	\$120 per entry
Speech, Lincoln-Douglas, or Congress Entry	\$60 per entry
Supplemental Events (<i>Commentary, Expository, Poetry, Prose, Extemporaneous Debate</i>)	\$20 each event entered (<i>may pre-register for all five, but may only re-register for two speech OR Extemporaneous Debate only</i>)
Consolation Events (<i>Impromptu or Storytelling</i>)	\$10 each event entered (<i>may pre-register for both, but may only re-register for one</i>)

Refund in full upon cancellation in writing before May 1, 2013, and 50% upon cancellation before May 8, 2013. No refunds thereafter.

- 4) **Deadline:** The ENTIRE entry form, including mailed materials, **MUST be completed and postmarked via certified mail by Wednesday, May 1, 2013.** Only registrations complete with respect to every essential item will be accepted. Late or incomplete entries and each entry lacking signatures or payment in full will be subject to a \$200 late fee, or denial of entry. **Alternates will be notified of available vacant slots starting Friday, May 10, 2013. Alternates have seven (7) days to commit to entry once notified, or they will forfeit their spot.** Deadline for registration of alternates is Thursday, May 31, 2013.
- 5) **Congressional Debate:** District chairs are encouraged to **upload** one or two items of legislation (preferably, one bill and one resolution) to the Points Application (http://www.nflonline.org/points_application) by April 1, 2013. Legislation is reviewed to ensure it adheres to League guidelines, and blindly vetted by a committee who rates and selects legislation from a variety of geographic regions. Full details are on page 16 of the District Tournament Operations Manual. **The national docket will be released on the League's website by Friday, May 10, 2013.** District chairs also send names of coaches experienced in judging Congress, so coaches should contact the chair to communicate interest, as well as select "prefer Congress" and/or "Parliamentarian" on the national entry judging form. Note: service as a parliamentarian is only a two-day commitment.
- 6) **Original Oratory:** Entrants must file a copy of their oration with the registration form, **signed by the contestant and the coach**, certifying the oration is the student's original work. Note: "No more than 150 words may be quoted from other sources. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited." **The oration MUST include a complete work cited page in MLA or APA format.**

- 7) **Interpretation:** See rules, p. 30-32. Incomplete entries are subject to the \$200 penalty or rejected.
- 8) **No Double Entry:** A contestant may enter only one main event category.
- 9) **Supplemental Event Entry:** Students may pre-register for up to four supplemental speech events (Commentary, Expository, Poetry, Prose) AND Extemporaneous Debate. There is a pre-registration fee of \$20 per event. All students entering supplemental events are required to pre-register with the national office before June 1, 2013. Students who have been eliminated from main event competition prior to round 9 or prior to the semifinals of Congressional Debate may re-register and officially enter up to two supplemental speech events OR Extemporaneous Debate (if pre-registered).
- 10) **Consolation Event Entry:** Students may pre-register for both consolation events (Storytelling and Impromptu). There is a pre-registration fee of \$10 per event. All students entering consolation events are required to pre-register with the national office before June 1, 2013. All pre-registered students eliminated from main event or supplemental competition by the end of consolation re-registration on Wednesday, June 19, may re-register for either Storytelling or Impromptu.
- 11) **Impromptu:** [New procedures in 2012-13] Students will draw, prepare, and speak in the same competition room. Topics will include proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations, and famous people. A judge in each section/room shall be provided with an envelope containing a uniform set of topics, with a different subject area used for each round. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room and wait outside the door. Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The speaker then has seven minutes in which to prepare a response and present a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes.
- 12) **Lodging:** Information concerning hotels and tournament activities is available in *Rostrum* and online at www.NFLnationals.org. All attendees are encouraged to stay at one of the League recommended properties.
- 13) **Mailing:** Send the required registration materials and fees via certified mail **postmarked** no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2013, to: **National Forensic League, 125 Watson Street, PO Box 38, Ripon, WI 54971-0038**. *NOTE: Faxed or emailed registrations will be rejected!*
- 14) **Pre-Sale Tournament Merchandise:** The local hosts and the League are offering discounts on pre-sale tournament merchandise, including t-shirts and water bottles. T-shirt sizes in particular tend to sell out quickly, so pre-purchasing is a great option! **Merchandise can be pre-ordered during online registration OR at store.nationalforensicleague.org by May 1, 2013.**
- 15) **Judging Information:** All judges must be available to judge Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, AND Thursday. All judges are eligible to judge supplemental and consolation events regardless of main event assignment.
- A. Events
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Each Policy Debate Team * | 8 rounds |
| Each Public Forum Debate Team ** | 5 rounds |
| Each Lincoln-Douglas Debater | 5 rounds |
| Each Duo Team | 4 rounds |
| Each Speech Entry | 4 rounds |
| Each Congressional Debate Entry | 4 rounds or 2 sessions of Congress |
| Each Supplemental Speech Entry | 1 round |
| Each Extemporaneous Debate Entry | 2 rounds |
| Each Consolation Entry | 0 rounds |
- B. A student entered in two supplemental events counts as two entries.
- C. * Each school that qualifies a Policy Debate team to the National Tournament must provide a qualified Policy judge for that team. If two (or 3) teams qualify, then two (or 3) qualified judges must be provided, each to be available to judge a minimum of 8 Policy rounds.
- D. ** Each school that qualifies a Public Forum team to the national tournament must provide a qualified Public Forum judge for that team who can judge a minimum of 5 rounds of Public Forum. Schools with two Public Forum teams may provide one judge for 8 rounds. Judges who are covering a Public Forum obligation also may fill out a Lincoln-Douglas Debate judging card to be considered for these rounds.

- E. **Each school must provide a judge for at least 6 rounds (Policy Debate team 8 rounds) and be available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, AND Thursday.** Schools that do not furnish a judge will be assessed a penalty of \$200 plus judging round fees. **A Policy Debate team or Public Forum team with no judge will be denied entry!**

The judge quota for each Congressional Debate entry is four rounds or two sessions of Congressional Debate. Coaches with only Congress entries may be required to judge Congressional Debate.

- F. Schools may choose to bring additional judges for additional owed rounds OR pay \$15 per round based upon the above quota. You must fill out the enclosed judge calculation worksheet. **NOTE: You cannot buy out Policy rounds or Public Forum rounds.**
- G. Each school must post a judge bond of \$200. This bond is in addition to entry fees and judge fees. If all judges from a school complete all judging assignments to which they were assigned, the \$200 will be returned at the end of the tournament. **All judge bonds must be claimed by October 1, 2013. Failure to report for a judging assignment or pooling assignment will forfeit your judge bond of \$200 for the first round missed, and a \$100 per round penalty will be assessed thereafter.** A school will not be permitted to compete the following year unless all outstanding fees have been paid.
- H. Each judge may pledge to judge as many as 8 rounds, but no more than 8.
- I. The League cannot accept registration unless the ENTIRE online registration process is complete, ALL mailed materials have been received, and a check covering all fees has been received. Each incomplete registration will be assessed a \$200 late fee.
- J. Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate judges must include completed judge philosophy cards with registration. Failure to do so by the May 1, 2013, entry deadline will result in a late fee of \$200. Teams will NOT be allowed to compete unless ALL judge philosophy cards are filed with the national office by June 1, 2013.

Several other forms are required, including a participant release, signed by the student and parent/guardian (if the student is not of legal age). Please see the entry website for more details.



General Rules

Eligibility and Qualification

- Events.** The tournament shall consist of main event contests in Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, Congressional Debate Senate and House of Representatives, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, International Extemporaneous speaking, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation. Supplemental and consolation contests may be conducted. Fees and judging requirements are established each year by the Board of Directors
- Qualification.** National qualification shall be determined by League district National Qualification Levels enumerated in the *District Tournament Operations Manual*, p. 4-5.
- Auto-Qualification.** In any given year at the National Tournament, any student who places in the top 14 in any main event, has not completed more than six semesters of high school, and is still enrolled in high school (as a student in good standing) may enter the following year's National Tournament in the same solo event or in the same team event with the same partner. The district will permit an auto-qualified student to participate in the district contest and to double enter as specified by the district's uniform double-entry policies. No rule regarding double entry may be violated by auto-qualification. The entry must indicate acceptance of the auto-qualification through his or her *Single Entry Letter of Intent* prior to its district competition. The district chair should notify the national office of acceptance of the auto-qualification in reporting district results. A student who accepts auto-qualification may double-enter based on rules above but must sign his/her single letter of intent, which is binding, in favor of the event of their auto-qualification. If the entry signs the single letter of intent and rejects auto-qualification, the results of the district contest are binding.
- Double Qualification.** A student may not qualify for, or enter in more than one main event.

5. **Alternates.** If qualifier(s) do not register for the national tournament by the established and published deadline date, alternate(s) may, in order of finish at the district tournament, register and attend the tournament. The top 14 contestants (teams) in order of finish in each event at the NFL district tournament shall be designated as qualifiers and/or alternates.
6. **Eligibility.** Any student who has attended a secondary school more than nine semesters cannot be entered into the National Tournament. Any student who is not an NFL member cannot be entered into the National Tournament. No student may participate in the National Tournament who has not met the age and eligibility requirement of his/her state activities association. If a student has already qualified to come to the National Tournament before s/he graduates, s/he will be allowed to attend the National Tournament, but no student may return from college and participate in an NFL district tournament.

Overarching Competition Rules

7. **Forfeit.** A contestant who does not appear at the scheduled time to speak shall be marked last. A debate team more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the decision. The ombudsman may waive these penalties for valid reasons.
8. If a student/team competes in the wrong contest section or against the wrong opponent, at no fault of their opponent or the tournament officials, that student/team will automatically receive last or will receive a loss for that particular round.
9. **Judges:** Preliminary debates and speech events shall be judged by two judges; elimination rounds by three judges; semifinals by five. In final rounds of debate any odd number 9 or greater judges will be assigned by the tournament director in consultation with the local host and Board of Directors. In final rounds of speech events at least 13 judges will be assigned by the tournament director in consultation with the local host and Board of Directors, with a minimum of one high and low rank dropped to allow for eleven final round ballots to be counted. College-age judges must have completed their second year (four semesters). College courses taken in high school for advanced credit do not count toward judge standing. A \$200 per round penalty is assessed when a judge misses a judging assignment. Judges assigned by the tournament committee shall be final unless protested in writing for cause.
10. **Protests.** Protests are filed with an official ombudsman on duty, appointed by the tournament director. NFL will provide a form in the ombudsmen room on which protests may be filed:
 - a. Name of NFL coach filing protest (a coach of record must file the protest) and school, city, state.
 - b. Code of person/team being protested.
 - c. Round being protested.
 - d. Section /room and speaker number of person/team being protested.
 - e. Specific infraction being protested described with supporting detail.

After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely matter. For coaches initiating protests, **decisions of the ombudsman are final.** If a perceived violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed.
11. **Adjudication of Appeals.** The coach of the accused may appeal the decision of an ombudsman to the tournament director. The tournament director's ruling may be appealed to a committee of present or former board members (appointed by the tournament director) whose decision is final.
12. **Disqualification.** In case of a disqualification of a contestant in the national tournament, all previous ranks and decisions of other contestants stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.
13. **Cumulative Trophy Points.** Each time a student appears in a debate or a main event contest, his/her school shall receive one trophy point. Trophy points shall accumulate from year to year, and the participating school with the largest total at the conclusion of each tournament shall receive the Bruno E. Jacob award sponsored by Pi Kappa Delta.
14. **Interpretation Material.** The interpretation cutting performed in the first round of competition must be used throughout the entirety of the tournament in that event (DI, HI, Duo, Prose, Poetry, Storytelling).
15. **Harassment:** Harassment in any form at any contest is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.
16. **Tournament Adjustments:**

- a. Under no circumstance shall a tournament or part of a tournament be re-run because of a violation of these rules.
 - b. In the case of a disqualification of a contestant, all previous ranks and decisions of other contestants stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.
17. **Tabulation Errors:** If a tab room error at the National Tournament results in an announcement at the awards assembly of an incorrect placement in an event, no contestant's place will be lowered. Contestants whose ranks justify a higher position will be awarded the correct place and award. Ties may result.
18. **Merit Points:**
- a. In preliminary rounds:
 - i. Debate: Win (2 judges) = 10 pts.; Split (1-1) = 8 pts.; Loss (0-2) = 7 pts.
 - ii. Speech: two judge totals of: 2 or 3 = 10 pts.; 4 or 5 = 9 pts.; 6 or 7 = 8 pts.; 8 or 9 = 7 pts.; 10+ = 6 pts.
 - b. In elimination rounds:
 - i. Debate: Win = 10 pts.; Loss = 7 pts
 - ii. Events

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th/7 th
Speech	10	9	8	7	6
Supplementary	6	5	4	3	2
 - c. In Congress: average of points awarded by official scorers, on a scale of 3-9 points per speech and complete hour of presiding.
 - d. Bonus: (to national winners) - 1st = 15; 2nd = 10; 3rd = 5
19. **Retrieval.** Contestants only may use electronic retrieval devices in the events enumerated below, with the restrictions noted. Use by contestants of any electronic retrieval system (recording or information retrieval system) that is not allowed results in the penalty below. Otherwise, electric or electronic devices may be used for the sole purpose of keeping time. Judges may use a computer to take notes while judging during competition at the District and/or National Tournament. Materials printed from online services are permitted in debates and the Extemp. prep room. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any NFL contest must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association [consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition)* or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>].



Contestants with laptops are responsible for providing sufficient battery power. No electrical power will be supplied by the tournament, and contestants may not plug in to outlets in the Extemp prep area.

- a. **Laptop Use in Debate:** The use of laptop computers in Policy Debate, Congressional Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate is permitted at the National Tournament.
 - i. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.
 - ii. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
 - iii. Wired connections (ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.
 - iv. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited. (This does not prohibit non-electronic communication between debate partners during prep time.)
 - v. **Penalty:** Contestants found to have violated provisions i through iii above will forfeit the round of competition and receive zero NFL points. Contestants found to have violated

provision iv (above) will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and NFL points.

- vi. **Availability of Evidence:** Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
 - vii. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
 - viii. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.
 - ix. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
 - x. By choosing to use laptop computers in the round, debaters are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their files. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use computers in the round.
- b. **Laptop Use in Extemporaneous Speaking:** The use of laptop computers in Extemporaneous Speaking is permitted at the National Tournament.
- i. Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may make use of electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at all NFL tournaments (district and national). Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read, but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers. **This rule in no way prevents students from still utilizing traditional paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in Extemporaneous Speaking. The NFL takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at NFL tournaments (district or national).**
 - ii. The use of electronic retrieval devices at the district competition will be the autonomous decision of each individual district committee.
 - iii. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. **Cell phones or smart phones are prohibited from being used while preparing or before speaking at NFL tournaments (district or national).**
 - iv. **Source Materials:** Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports or journal articles saved on their electronic retrieval device **or present in hard copy form** provided:
 - 1. There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.
 - 2. Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.
 - v. No other source materials will be allowed in the Extemporaneous prep room other than stated above. Pre-written Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, **whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form.**
 - vi. **Power Source:** Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times.
 - vii. Competitors are responsible for making certain their electronic retrieval devices are fully charged at the start of each competition day and for proper power management ensuring that their device remains functional throughout the competition day. Contestants may not use external power sources in the prep room, such as wall outlets and/or extension cords.
 - viii. **Internet:** Extemporaneous Speaking contestants shall not access the Internet or communicate

electronically with any other individual while in the prep room at any NFL tournament (district or national). All computers must comply with the following provisions:

1. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.
 2. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
 3. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.
 4. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited.
 5. **Penalty:** Contestants found to have violated provisions i through iii above will be ranked last in the round and receive zero NFL points. Contestants found to have violated provision iv (above) will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all round credits and NFL points. At NFL district tournaments, the district committee will make the final decision concerning disqualification. In case of a serious dispute or critical question, the acting tournament referee (representing the national office) may be contacted for a ruling.
- ix. **Liability:** Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entire course of any NFL tournament (district or national). *The NFL may put stickers and/or tape on computers to ensure they are not opened or used, or to ensure appropriate owners take their own machines. The NFL does not assume any liability for the computers. Students are welcome to use Kensington locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the prep room. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. The NFL is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken computers.*
- x. **File Monitoring:** The NFL retains the right to view and search any electronic retrieval devices to ensure compliance with any and all rules at any NFL tournament (district or national).
- xi. Devices should be muted in the prep room. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices in the prep room. Tournament officials may ask a student to power-off the device if it becomes distracting.
- xii. Students from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, communication among contestants during preparation time is strictly prohibited.
- c. **Penalty:** *If a debater uses a contraband device, s/he will receive a loss in the round. A Congressional debater will be suspended from a session.*

Tournament Procedures for Debate Events

The following rules apply to Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy debate events.

General Rules & Instructions

1. **Entries:** an entry is defined as a team of two Policy or Public Forum debaters, or an individual Lincoln-Douglas debater. No substitution is allowed.
2. **Codes:** Entries are identified by a random alphanumerical code.
3. **Advancement/Elimination:** Entries are guaranteed six preliminary rounds; those who have won 8 or more ballots compete in rounds 7 and 8. Beginning with round 7, an entry is eliminated as soon as it loses two debates.
4. **Prompting Philosophy:** Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor or during Public Forum Grand Crossfire.
5. **Timing:** Timekeepers are an option but not required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time for their partners or the judge may keep time. See rules for each event, particular to preparation time.
6. **Reading case and/or plan:** A team may decide, when asked by the opponent team for a copy of their case and/or plan, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses they will not be penalized in any way.
7. **Evidence:**
 - a. Responsibilities of entries reading evidence:
 - i. The entry is responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the debate.
 - ii. In all rounds of **Congressional**, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum debate, debaters must, at a minimum, orally deliver the title of the source and the author's name. In Policy debate, debaters must orally deliver the name of the author, title of the source (e.g. title of the book, not chapter; title of journal, not article), and complete date. Internet based sources must also include the title of the website, database, or access point, the date accessed, and the Web address. The additional citation required for online sources must appear on all evidence, but need not be read. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and title need be given orally only for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required.
 - iii. In all rounds of debate, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced in the round must be available in the round.
 - iv. The use of internal ellipsis is strongly discouraged but may be used if the original source or a copy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available.
 - v. Personal correspondence with an author or private communication of any kind is inadmissible as evidence.
 - b. Responsibilities of entries challenging evidence:
 - i. Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence must be made on substantive grounds.
 - ii. A challenger must have either the original source or a copy of the source being cited, **or**
 - iii. A challenger must demonstrate that reasonable search has not been able to locate the source
 - c. Definitions of non-existent evidence or evidence which seriously distorts the intention of the original source.
 - i. "Serious distortion" exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted word(s) which do not clarify but in fact change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
 - ii. "Non-existent evidence" means that

- 01. Reasonable search is unable to produce the original source and/or the team reading the evidence is unable to provide the original source or a copy of the relevant pages.
- 02. The evidence cited is not located in the original source cited. Typographical errors in citation will not automatically result in the evidence being labeled non-existent, if the team reading the evidence can produce the correct information.
- d. Procedures for initiating and reviewing protest of evidence.
- e. Penalties
 - i. The judge(s) will disregard evidence lacking specified citation and challenged by the opposition unless said citation is proffered immediately in the subsequent speech. At the conclusion of a challenge related to the oral presentation of or in round availability of a citation, the judge is the sole determiner of the level of penalty in the round in relationship to the level of the violation, not to exceed a maximum penalty of a loss (or non-ranking in Congress) with zero points, as part of the judge's decision making process.
 - ii. If an evidence violation is presented where a debater is found to have committed a "serious distortion" or to have used "non-existent evidence," at the conclusion of due process, the offending debater(s) may be disqualified from the tournament.
 - iii. Depending on the severity, an offense MAY result in notification of said offense to their high school administration and chapter sponsor, loss of all district and/or National Tournament NFL points, including trophy and sweepstakes points for the offending student(s), and/or revocation of NFL membership.
- f. Tournament Adjustments
 - i. Under no circumstance will a tournament or part of a tournament be re-run because of a violation of these rules.
 - ii. In the case of a disqualification of a contestant, all previous ranks and decisions of other contestants stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.
- 8. **Oral Critiques:** No debate ballot may be returned without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. The NFL strongly discourages judges from disclosing decisions in the preliminary round of NFL competition. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.
- 9. **Judges:**
 - a. Two computer-assigned judges will be used in all preliminary rounds; three judges in elim rounds prior to semifinals.
 - b. In semifinals, five judges are assigned who have been nominated for semifinals by the NFL District Chairs.
 - c. In the final round, any odd number 9 or greater judges will be assigned by the tournament director in consultation with the local host and Board of Directors.
- 10. **Conflicts:** Contestants in any debate event who are about to be judged by someone who has taught them at any time must report that fact immediately to the ombudsman. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- 11. **Scouting:** Scouting is strongly discouraged.

Debate Pairing Instructions

I. Pairing Priorities

These take absolute precedence over pairing methods. Priorities are more important than side alternation.

- A. The first priority is the drawing of byes.
- B. The second priority is to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.
- C. The third priority is to avoid the pairing of teams who have met previously in the tournament, except to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.
- D. The fourth priority is to avoid the pairing of teams from the same state except to avoid pairing teams from the same school or teams who met earlier (waived after round 11).

II. Drawing of Byes

- A. Once a bye has been correctly drawn, it cannot be changed.
- B. All teams eligible for a bye must be included in the drawing.
- C. Until three teams remain, byes shall first be drawn from teams losing to a team still undefeated. If no remaining teams have lost to undefeateds or if team(s) losing to an undefeated have had previous bye(s), a blind draw shall take place among once defeated team(s) which have had no bye.
- D. When only 3 teams remain and only one is undefeated, that team must get the bye, even if it has had a previous bye.
- E. No team may refuse a bye.

III. Steps in Pairing

When pairing debate rounds at the national tournament, the following order of business should be followed unless they violate the pairing priorities above.

- A. The first step is the drawing of byes.
- B. The second step is the pairing of undefeated teams.
- C. The third step is the selection of a once-defeated team to meet an undefeated team, if necessary.
- D. The fourth step is the pairing of once-undefeated teams.

IV. Pairing of Guaranteed Rounds

- A. A preset schedule for the first six preliminary rounds of the national tournament will be prepared by computer.
- B. Each team shall uphold 3 affirmatives and 3 negatives unless byed, except Public Forum rounds that always flip to determine sides.
- C. Byes, if necessary, are to be selected at random. No school or team may receive more than one bye in the six guaranteed rounds.

V. Qualification for Elimination Rounds

- A. Each debate in the six preliminary rounds will be judged by two judges.
- B. Each team will count ballots cast in its favor [byes count as two ballots; receiving a forfeit win counts as two ballots]
- C. Any team who wins 8 ballots or more qualifies for elimination rounds 7 and 8.

VI. Rounds 7 and 8

- A. The qualifying teams shall begin rounds 7 and 8 with a clear record (0-0). Each team shall be affirmative in one round and negative in the other, unless byed.
- B. Pairings shall be made at random, but
 - 1. No team shall be paired against its own school.
 - 2. Teams who have met previously shall not be paired.
 - 3. Teams from the same state shall not be paired.
- C. After round 8, those teams losing both rounds 7 and 8 are eliminated. The remaining teams continue until losing a second time or reaching the final round.
- D. No team shall be eliminated before losing twice or losing the final round.

VII. Pairing Methods for Subsequent Rounds

Philosophy: A team is an independent unit and shall be paired and assigned sides based upon its own record. The opponents debated, sides debated, or byes drawn by other teams from its school are irrelevant and must NOT be used when pairing or assigning sides.

- A. Pairing the Undefeated Bracket
 - 1. Pair undefeated teams against undefeated teams.
 - 2. Teams should alternate sides, if possible; however, alteration of sides is not one of the core priorities.
 - 3. Pairing procedure in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate:
 - a. On a table at the left, place the registration cards of teams with more negative debates who are then due to debate affirmative in the next round.
 - b. At the right, place those with more affirmative debates who are then due to debate the negative in the next round.
 - c. Hold back any who have had an equal number of affirmative and negative debates to even the shorter column **as these teams ARE NOT DUE a particular side.**

- d. If still unequal in number, move cards from the side with *more* to the side with *less*. Choose those cards by blind lot.
 - e. Working with the stack of affirmative cards, deal them in a vertical row.
 - f. The negative cards are to be shuffled and placed in sequence opposite the affirmative cards. Every effort should be made to adhere to pairing priorities as listed in Section I.
 - g. If there is an odd number of undefeated teams, draw from the pile of *once-defeated* teams who **ARE DUE** (see letter i below) to uphold the side opposite the *odd* undefeated team unless the pairing creates a conflict with the pairing priorities. If the blind draw results in pairings of teams in conflict with the pairing priorities, the draw shall be redone to create pairings of teams not in conflict. Remember,
 - h. If there are no once-defeated teams who **are due** to uphold the side opposite an *odd* undefeated team, draw one from all of the once-defeated teams. If the blind draw results in pairings of teams in conflict with the pairing priorities, the draw shall be redone to create pairings not in conflict.
 - i. Teams who have debated an unequal number of affirmative and negative debates **are considered due** the side in which they have participated in the least, these side constraints **CANNOT** violate the priorities listed above in pairing priority rule I which are substantially more important. When a team has debated an equal number of affirmative and negative debates, the team is considered eligible for either side in the next round, and side alternation from the previous round is **NOT A PRIORITY** and should not be considered in pairing.
4. Pairing Procedure in Public Forum Debate: Shuffle all cards from the undefeated bracket. Place half of the registration cards on a table at the left in a single column from top to bottom. The remaining cards are to be shuffled, once again, and placed in sequence in a single column from top to bottom so that each card is opposite a card in the left column. If there is an odd number of undefeated teams, draw from the pile of *once-defeated* teams.
 5. Teams from the same school shall not be paired in the undefeated bracket unless,
 - a. They are the last two undefeated teams, or
 - b. The last three undefeated teams, or
 - c. Three of the last four undefeated teams, or
 - d. A majority of the undefeated teams (after a bye, if any,) has been drawn.
- B. Pairing the Once-Defeated Bracket.
1. Pair once-defeated teams (except that one once-defeated team may be drawn to meet an undefeated) against once defeated teams.
 2. Teams should alternate sides, if possible.
 3. Pairing Procedure in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate:
 - a. On a table at the left, place the registration cards of once-defeated teams with more negative debates who **are due to** debate affirmative in the next round.
 - b. At the right, place those with more affirmative debates who **are due to** debate negative in the next round.
 - c. In Policy and LD hold back any who have had an equal number of both to even the columns as these are **not due** either side.
 - d. If still uneven in number, move cards from the side with *more* to the side with *less*. Choose those cards by blind lot.
 - e. Working with the stack of *affirmative* cards, deal them in a vertical row.
 - f. The negative cards are to be shuffled and placed in sequence opposite the affirmative cards. Every effort should be made to adhere to pairing priorities as listed in Section I.
 4. Pairing Procedure in Public Forum Debate: Shuffle all cards from the once defeated bracket. Place half of the registration cards on a table at the left in a single column from top to bottom. The remaining cards are to be shuffled, once again, and placed in sequence in a single column from top to bottom so that each card is opposite a card in the left column.
 5. **Teams** who have met previously should not be paired unless too few teams remain. Too few teams shall be deemed to remain when no combination of pairings can be constructed where all teams are meeting for the first time without leaving the bracket.
 6. Teams from the same school shall not be paired unless,

- a. They are the last two once-defeated teams, or
- b. They are the last 3 once-defeated teams.
- c. Two of the last three once-defeated teams and other team draws a bye.
- d. Three of the last 4 once-defeated teams, or
- e. Three of the last 5 once defeated teams and one of the other two teams draws a bye.

VIII. Assignment of Sides

Sides are not assigned in Public Forum Debate. Every round is a flip round. Sides are assigned in Policy and LD Debate. Each team operates as an independent unit. Side assignments are NOT based on sides debated by other teams from its school. *Side assignment is less important than other pairing priorities.*

- A. Side alternation is not a priority. However, in the prelim rounds each team **should** debate an equal number of rounds as the affirmative and negative team. A bye can create an unequal number. Also, in rounds 7 and 8, each debate must debate each side once.
- B. No team should be assigned to debate three times in succession on the same side unless *pairing priorities* force this to happen. Priority D is waived after round 11.
- C. If **teams** meet a second time, they must reverse sides.
- D. If **teams** meet a third time:
 1. If both have had an unequal number of "affirmatives" and "negatives" and the less debated sides are opposite, each shall be assigned the less debated side.
 2. If one team has an uneven number of "affirmatives" and "negatives", and the other team an equal number, the team with the uneven number shall be assigned its less debated side and the other assigned the opposite side.
 3. If both teams have an equal number of "affirmatives" and "negatives" and are, therefore, due to uphold the same side, or if both teams have an unequal number, and both have debated more on the same side and less on the other, then sides shall be assigned by blind draw.

IX. Elimination and Final Round

- A. Beginning with round 7, double elimination shall be in effect until there are two teams remaining.
- B. When two teams remain, they shall be assigned to a final round. The decision of that round shall determine the national debate champion.
- C. Determining 3rd - 14th place:
 1. Placement shall be determined by the most number of rounds. Byes and forfeit wins count as rounds debated.
 2. When contestants are eliminated in the same round, placement shall be determined by total ballot count throughout the elimination rounds. Byes shall count as many ballots as judges in each debate in the round where the bye occurred. Forfeits shall not count toward ballot count.
 3. If still tied, placement shall be determined by total ballot count throughout the preliminary rounds. Byes shall count as many ballots as judges in each debate in the round where the bye occurred. Forfeits shall not count toward ballot count.
 4. If still tied, placement shall be determined by the winner of a previous meeting between the two teams in the elimination rounds.
 5. If the tied teams did not meet in the elimination rounds, placement shall be determined by the winner of previous meeting in the preliminary rounds, if one of the teams won both ballots.
 6. If still tied, both contestants will receive the same placement and the same award.

XI. Tabulation of Speaker Points (Policy Debate only)

- A. Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete.
- B. Determination of the top speakers shall proceed as follows:
 1. Drop high and low ballots from 12 total ballots of 6 preliminary rounds.
 2. Add up total speaker points from the remaining ballots of the guaranteed rounds (10 ballots).
- C. Tie-breaking procedures:
 1. Use total speaker points (12 ballots)
 2. Drop a second set of high-low ballots (8 ballots).
 3. The debater on the team advancing the furthest in the tournament.

Tournament Procedures for Main Speech Events

General Rules & Instructions

1. **Codes:** Entries are identified by a random alphanumerical code.
2. **Judges:**
 - a. Two computer-assigned judges will be used in all preliminary rounds; three judges in elim rounds prior to semifinals.
 - b. In semifinals, five judges are assigned who have been nominated for semifinals by district chairs.
 - c. In the final round, at least 13 judges will be assigned by the tournament director in consultation with the local host and Board of Directors. A minimum of one high and low rank will be dropped to allow for eleven ballots to be counted for the final round.
3. **Scripts:**
 - a. See p. 30-32 – particularly rule 4a. and 4b. for source verification for Dramatic, Duo and Humorous Interpretation.
 - b. It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation Contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets League rules.
 - c. Original Oratory: the contestant's manuscript must be sent with registration. The script should identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words – which may not exceed 150, – include a work cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant.

Speech Sectioning Instructions

I. Guaranteed Preliminary Rounds

Sectioning: Guaranteed rounds will be randomly paired by computer:

1. *Pairings:* No student is placed in a section with another student from their same school, League district, or state.
2. *Opposition:* Each student will meet different opposition in each round.
3. Each student will be assigned a different speaker position each round.

II. Elimination Rounds:

A. Elimination Process:

1. After round 6, each main event will be reduced to the top sixty contestants determined on the basis of low total ranks in the six preliminary rounds. Ties will be broken using the priority system. (See rule VII.)
2. The top sixty contestants in each individual event will be guaranteed competition through round 8.
3. At the conclusion of round 8, each individual event will be reduced to the top thirty contestants determined by the total of judge ballots in rounds 7 and 8 **only**. Ties will be broken using the priority system.
4. The top thirty contestants in each individual event will be guaranteed competition through round 10. Rounds 9 and 10 shall be known as the quarterfinals.
5. At the conclusion of round 10, each individual event will be reduced to the top fourteen contestants determined by the total of judge ballots in rounds 7-10 **only**. Ties will be broken using the priority system.
6. The top fourteen contestants in each individual event will be guaranteed competition through round 12. Rounds 12 and 12 shall be known as the semifinals. Each of five judges' ballots in round 11 and in round 12 shall be counted separately.
7. At the conclusion of round 12, each individual event will be reduced to the top six contestants determined by the total of judge ballots in rounds 7-12. Ties will be broken on the basis of the priority system.
8. The top six contestants in each individual event will compete in the final round.
9. At the conclusion of the final round, the final placement of contestants will be determined on the basis of the low cumulative total of:
 - a. The twelve judges' ranks in rounds 7-10.

- b. Ten judges' ranks in rounds 11 and 12, and
- c. Eleven individual judges' ranks in the final round after dropping at least one high and low rank for each contestant in the final round.

B. *Paneling*:

1. *Number*: The number of panels in each event shall be as follows:
 - a. Rounds 7 and 8: ten panels of six contestants each.
 - b. Rounds 9 and 10: five panels of six contestants each.
 - c. Rounds 11 and 12: two panels of seven contestants each.
 - d. Round 13: one panel of six contestants.
2. *Procedures*: Total each speaker's ranks. Then organize the pairing cards in order from low total to high total. Determine the number of panels. Lay the cards out horizontally in a back and forth (weave) pattern.

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	18		

Example 1 -- 4 panels (1 has the lowest total, 18 the highest total)

3. *Balance*: Pairing in the elimination rounds shall be balanced. The sum of contestant ranks in each section shall be equal or be close to equal.
4. *Adjustment*: Contestants should be changed from one panel to another to avoid (in the precedence listed):
 - a. Contestants from the same school in the same panel.
 - b. Contestants from the same district in the same panel (through round 10).
 - c. Contestants with the lowest cumulative ranks total in the same panel.
 - d. Contestants who have competed against each other in preceding rounds.

In later rounds, some of these conditions become unavoidable; however, each and every one should be avoided whenever possible.

III. Speaking Order

A. *Philosophy*: Speaking order for contestants should be varied throughout the tournament.

1. In the six guaranteed rounds, no contestant should be given a speaking position twice.
2. In *all* elimination rounds speaking positions should be varied. A speaker should not repeat a speaking position until it becomes unavoidable.

B. *Procedure*: To determine speaking order, total the speaker's positions in previous rounds on each speaker's card, and then arrange the cards in each section high to low. The higher numbers will speak in the top half of the round, and the lower numbers will speak in the bottom half. Adjust the cards within the framework so that a student speaks in a new position, if possible.

Example 2:

Speaker	Position				Total	Comment	Position Rd. 5
	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3	Rd. 4			
A	1	3	5	2	11	Low total; never 7	7
B	4	1	7	3	15	Never 5	5
C	2	6	7	4	19	High total; never 1	1
D	7	1	6	2	16	2nd high; never 3	3
E	5	3	2	4	14	Never 6	6
F	6	2	5	2	15	Never 4	4
G	3	7	4	1	15	Never 2	2

Note that G, F, B, have same total, yet speak 2, 4, 5 as adjustments are made to give them a new position.

C. *Priority*: New positions for several speakers takes priority over exact high to low placement order.

Example 3:

Speaker	Position			Total	Comment	Position Rd. 4
	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Rd. 3			
A	2	5	3	10	2nd highest; has been 2, 3	4
B	3	2	4	9	Middle; never 5	5
C	4	1	4	9	Never 3	3
D	4	3	1	8	Low; but never 2	2
E	6	3	2	11	High; never 1	1

- D. In Extemporaneous Speaking events, unless it is unavoidable, students from the same school shall not cross-examine one another. Speaker order should be adjusted accordingly.
- E. **Speaking order in the final round of speech events shall be determined by random placement.**

IV. Elimination Round Selection

- A. **Round 7 Selection:** On a low cumulative basis, totaling the 12 judges' ballots in the six preliminary rounds, rounds 7 and 8 shall be composed of the top 60 contestants divided into 10 panels of six each. If ties in cumulative scores bring the number to over 60, the priority system shall break ties:
 1. Greatest number of firsts, then seconds, then thirds, etc., in an individual judge's rankings.
 2. If ties cannot be resolved by the above method, those tied shall be included in elim rounds 7 and 8.
- B. **Round 9 Selection:** Using only the individual judge's ballots from rounds 7 and 8, round 9 shall be composed of the top thirty contestants divided into five panels of six each. If ties in cumulative scores bring the number to over thirty, the following procedure shall be employed.
 1. In a two-way tie if the participants have met, the tie is resolved in favor of the winner. If there is a multiple tie or the opponents have not met, then
 2. Greatest number of judges' firsts, seconds, thirds, etc. in elimination rounds only.
 3. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, thirds, etc. in elimination round re-rankings.
 4. If still tied, both (all) participate.
- C. **Round 11 -- Semifinalist Selection:** On a low cumulative basis, considering the individual judge's ballots from rounds 7-10, rounds 11 and 12 (semifinals) shall be composed of the top fourteen contestants divided into two panels of seven each. If ties in cumulative scores bring the number to over fourteen, the procedure used above (for determining round 9 contestants) shall be employed.
- D. **Finalist Selection:** The final round shall be composed of the top six contestants selected on a low cumulative basis, adding the three judges' ranks in each round 7-10, and the five judges in rounds 11 and 12 (22 numbers). If ties bring the number over six, the following shall be considered in the order listed to break ties:
 1. Low cumulative judges' ballots counted in rounds 11 and 12 only (speakers need not have been in the same panels).
 2. Greatest number of firsts in both semis.
 3. Greatest number of individual judge's firsts, seconds, etc. awarded in *all* elim rounds.
 4. If ties cannot be resolved by the above methods, those tied are to be included in the finals.
- E. **Final Score:** The winner in each event shall be determined on the basis of low total cumulative score, counting the individual judges' ranks in rounds 7-10 and the ranks of all ten judges in rounds 11 and 12, and **eleven individual judge's ranks in the final round, after dropping at least one high and one low rank for each contestant in the final round.** IN ALL ROUNDS, ACTUAL JUDGES' RANKS SHALL BE RECORDED AND ADDED.

V. Ties in Elimination Rounds

- A. **Two-Way Ties:** Two-way ties shall be broken in elim rounds (see example →).
- B. **Three- and Four-Way Ties:** Three- or four-way ties shall not be broken in any panel (see example, top of next page).

Speaker	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Cume.	Place
A	1*	3	2*	6	1st
B	2	1*	3	6	2nd

Speaker A is preferred by two of the three judges.

Each contestant involved in a three- or four-way tie in a panel shall be awarded the better middle position for which the speakers are tied. For other contestants in the panel, eliminate the next position(s) after the tie ranking.

Speaker	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Cume.	Place
A	1	2	3	6	2nd
B	2	3	1	6	2nd
C	3	1	2	6	2nd

The next rank in the round would be fourth.

Speaker	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Cume.	Place
A	1	3	4	8	2nd
B	2	5	1	8	2nd
C	3	2	3	8	2nd
D	5	1	2	8	2nd

The next rank would be fifth.

VI. Tabulation of Results

A. In Preliminary rounds:

After each round, the two judges' ranks for each student in that round should be recorded on each student's tabulation card.

B. In Elimination rounds:

- Score Sheets:** A scoring sheet for each panel of an event should be prepared by listing the code numbers of each contestant in the panel in speaking order according to the contestant cards. When ballots come in write the decision in the spaces provided, then total the judges' decisions and give a rank to each contestant, low cumulative ranking first, etc. Staple the score sheet to the three ballots.
- Contestant Cards:** On the contestant cards, the panel number and the speaking order should always be recorded. From the score sheet, each judge's decision and the computed rank should be recorded on the card. After the second round, a running cumulative rank total should be kept on the card.

3. BREAKING TIES IN FINAL SCORES

Speaker	Rd. 7 Ranks	Rd. 8 Ranks	Rd. 9 Ranks	Rd. 10 Ranks	Rd. 11 Ranks	Rd. 12 Ranks
A	1 2 3	1 4 1	1 5 2	1 1 1	1 5 2 2 1	2 3 2 1 4
B	1 1 1	2 2 2	3 3 3	2 4 3	3 1 1 4 2	1 1 3 2 2
C	2 3 3	1 1 1	1 2 2	2 1 1	2 2 3 1 5	3 2 1 4 1

Speaker	Judge Ranks												Cumulative Total	
A	(1)	4	1	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	(5)	3	2	70
B	4	(5)	2	2	2	3	(1)	2	3	5	2	2	3	77
C	2	3	3	1	(1)	2	(5)	2	4	1	1	4	5	70

* Two high and two low ranks dropped. Speakers A and C tie at 70 cumulative total. Speaker A wins with 24 in the final round. C has 28.

If ties exist, the following shall be considered in order listed to break ties:

- Low total in the final round only, after dropping high and low ranks for each speaker.
- Judges' preference in the final round only, after dropping high and low ranks for each speaker.
- Low total of all ranks in the final round.
- Greatest number of firsts in the final round only.
- Judges preference or reciprocals from all final round judges.
- If ties still exist, duplicate awards will be given.

National Congressional Debate Procedures

- I. **Opening Assembly** – includes the Pledge of Allegiance and Oath of Office, and general announcements. All times are printed in the *National Tournament Book*. All participants and officials are expected to adhere to start and end times, accordingly.
- II. **Preliminary Chambers** – in the Senate and House of Representatives, there are chambers of approximately 18-21 students each.
 - A. Preliminary rounds are split into four sessions of about three hours apiece; each session:
 1. Begins with electing a presiding officer.
 2. Features a new seating chart, with necessary accommodations made for students with special needs.
 3. Resets precedence and recency.
 4. Begins with debate on new legislation not debated in a previous session.
 - B. A parliamentarian will be assigned to a chamber for all preliminary sessions. Parliamentarians call their chambers to order and will:
 1. Announce they shall remain in the background, but will not hesitate to step forward firmly when their presence is required. They will impress upon members of their chambers that their purpose is to debate legislation; no misuse of the parliamentary procedure will be tolerated. They will announce that in questions of procedure, priority is as follows:
 - a. League rules and procedures
 - b. Rulings by the tournament director's designee, who will consult *Robert's Rules of Order* and other League officials if necessary.
 - c. The parliamentarian may not add guidelines or suggestions that are not approved by League rules and/or the tournament director's designee.
 2. When each session begins, conduct a single-ballot election for presiding officer. Unless one candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the person with the fewest votes is dropped. If combined votes of the two lowest candidates do not equal votes of the next lowest candidate, both are eliminated. Once a candidate receives a majority, s/he will serve for the session immediately following the election, and receives an engraved gavel. Note: a student may run for presiding officer each session, but once he/she is elected and serves, he/she may not be considered for future preliminary sessions unless no other student wishes to serve.
 3. Once elected, the presiding officer will conduct business of the chamber. At the beginning of session 1, the chamber will establish an agenda, either by caucusing committees who will propose agendas, or by nominating an agenda from the floor. Tournament staff may debrief the first session presiding officers while chambers determine agendas.
 4. Prior to establishing precedence and recency, presiding officers may not tie recognition for speeches to questions and motions (often called "activity"), nor to "longest standing" or "standing time."
 5. Parliamentarians should familiarize themselves with League rules and procedures (furnished with chamber materials), and become acquainted with names of students in the chamber as placed on the seating chart.
 6. Since different districts and leagues use their own rules, legislators frequently believe local rules are synonymous with national rules. The parliamentarian must be well versed with the *national* rules and willing to consult tournament staff when necessary. He/she must be firm but fair at all times.
 7. Ensure that each session, the chamber reaches maintains as close to three hours of floor debate as possible (not counting recesses or presiding officer elections).
 8. Ensure proper speech times: up to three minutes for speaking and one minute for questioning by other delegates, with the exception of speeches introducing legislation, and the first negative, which allow for two minutes of questioning.
 9. Ensure the precedence/recency chart is reset for each new session. Contestants should keep a record of how many speeches they have given, and may confirm with the parliamentarian.
 10. Keep a record of all amendments, proposed and passed, using amendment forms.

11. Keep a list of speakers and the total number of speeches each gives, making notes of the strengths and weaknesses of each, but without consulting scorers. At the end of the preliminary session, parliamentarians will preferentially *rank all* of the students, with the top eight ranks tabulated with the other judges' as part of the cumulative rank total.
 - C. Two scorers are assigned each session in rotation between sessions to various chambers. They will:
 1. Award three (3) to nine (9) points per speech without consulting each another regarding their evaluation. A speaker's *answers* during the questioning period *should* weigh in the scorers' evaluation.
 2. Award the presiding officer three (3) to nine (9) points per complete hour of service.
 3. Rank their eight (8) more preferred students in each session they evaluate.
 - D. There should be little consultation between Congress officials concerning the chamber when it is in session. The parliamentarian *should* consult with scorers to confirm the number of speeches actually given by each student.
 - E. Debate on legislation shall commence as follows:
 1. The district congressperson shall have the right to open debate on his/her district's legislation, however, he/she may relinquish this right to the chamber.
 2. Any amendment must be presented to the presiding officer in writing on the appropriate form before being moved and presented. In consultation with the parliamentarian, the amendment will be ruled either germane or dilatory. Any legislator may seek the floor to defend or oppose the amendment, recognized in order according to precedence/recency.
 - F. After each preliminary session, the presiding officer (PO) will be presented a gavel, and must either agree or decline to serve as a PO if s/he advances to semifinals. This choice, once made in writing on the official form, is binding, and a PO who has agreed to further service may not withdraw until that round of service has been completed.
 - G. At the end of the preliminary session, the top 6 students in each Senate and top 5 students in each House advance to the semifinal session, for a total of 60 Senators and 70 Representatives (130 students, altogether).
 1. At the end of each scorer's and parliamentarian's judging commitment, s/he will rank his/her eight (8) most preferred students in the chamber; the parliamentarian also will complete a ballot ranking *all* students in the chamber. Students with the lowest cumulative rank total will advance to the next level of competition. Ties will be broken in order of the following priorities:
 - a. Judges' preference
 - b. Reciprocal fractions
 - c. Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest and lowest ranks
 - d. Judges' preference of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - e. Reciprocals of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - f. Rank by the parliamentarian
 2. Those students not advancing to the semifinal session may enter Supplemental Events if pre-registered.
- III. **Semifinal Session** - The semifinal session is comprised of chambers of 15 Senators and 17-18 Representatives each.
- A. Students are assigned to chambers in the priority listed:
 1. Seed (mathematical progression; "snaking")
 2. Avoid district conflict
 3. Equal distribution of presiding officer nominees.
 4. Equal state distribution.
 - B. Three scorers and one parliamentarian will be assigned to each chamber.
 - C. The semifinal round is split into two sessions of about three hours apiece; each session:
 1. Begins with electing a presiding officer.
 2. Features a new seating chart, with necessary accommodations made for students with special needs.
 3. Resets precedence and recency.

4. Begins with debate on new legislation not debated in a previous session.
- D. Only preliminary session presiding officers may be considered as candidates for presiding the semifinal and final sessions.
1. A student may decline nomination in writing at any time, but once he/she does so, he/she may not be considered for presiding officer in later sessions. Once a student agrees to nomination, s/he must serve in the next level of advancement, if designated--
 2. The top four presiding officer candidates will advance in nomination for the next level of presiding, using a priority system as follows:
 - a. Points awarded *for presiding* in the preliminary session.
 - b. Cumulative rank total.
 - c. Adjusted cumulative rank total.
 - d. Parliamentarian's ballot.
- E. At the beginning of each semifinal session, conduct a single-ballot election for presiding officer from among the candidates supplied by tournament staff, following the same procedures as in the preliminary session (II.B.2). In the event there is no student in a chamber wishing and/or eligible to preside, an adult official will be assigned to preside. The winner receives an engraved gavel. **There is no longer an audition period in the semifinal session.**
- F. At the end of the semifinal session the top six legislators in each chamber advance to the final session:
1. At the end of each scorer's and parliamentarian's judging commitment, s/he will rank his/her eight (8) most preferred legislators in the chamber; the parliamentarian also will complete a ballot ranking all legislators in the chamber. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total will advance to the next level of competition. Ties will be broken in order of the following priorities:
 - a. Judges' preference
 - b. Reciprocal fractions
 - c. Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest and lowest ranks
 - d. Judges' preference of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - e. Reciprocals of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - f. Rank by the parliamentarian
 2. Students not advancing to the final session may claim a Senator Karl E. Mundt Medallion in the Congress headquarters.

IV. **Final Session**

- A. Eight (8) scorers and one parliamentarian will be assigned to each chamber.
- B. Students will be randomly assigned seats on a seating chart randomly generated on computer by the tab room, with necessary accommodations made for students with special needs.
- C. Presiding officer nominees will be selected from those that served as a presiding officer in the semifinal session, with the same caveats enumerated in III.D.1. The top four will be placed on the list of nominees, based on the following criteria:
 1. Points awarded in the semifinal session *for presiding*.
 2. Points awarded in the preliminary session *for presiding*.
 3. Semifinal cumulative rank total.
 4. Adjusted semifinal cumulative rank total.
 5. Parliamentarian's ballot.
- D. Before electing the presiding officer, an audition period of approximately 30 minutes will be used, and candidates' names shall be drawn randomly to determine the order of auditioning. The audition is not scored, nor will it count in precedence (for recognition purposes). In the event there is no student in a chamber wishing and/or eligible to preside, an adult official will be assigned to preside.
 1. Following auditions, the parliamentarian will conduct an election for the final session *Speaker of the House* and *President of the Senate*. These students will be recognized at the awards assembly and each presented a two-foot presentation gavel, engraved accordingly.
 2. The final session presiding officer is eligible to be ranked among the speakers in the session.

3. All speeches given by the four presiding officer candidates will be scored, and merit points shall be recorded, accordingly. The elected presiding officer also will receive points for presiding, per hour, following the election. Auditioning time shall not count toward merit points.
- E. At the end of the final session the top six contestants in the Senate and in the House are nominated to a final ballot by:
1. At the end of each scorer's and parliamentarian's judging commitment, s/he will rank his/her eight (8) most preferred students in the chamber; the parliamentarian also will complete a ballot ranking all legislators in the chamber. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total will advance to the next level of competition. Ties will be broken in order of the following priorities:
 - a. Judges' preference
 - b. Reciprocal fractions
 - c. Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest and lowest ranks
 - d. Judges' preference of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - e. Reciprocals of adjusted cumulative rank total
 - f. Rank by the parliamentarian
 2. All final session participants receive the Senator John C. Stennis Medallion.
- V. **Leadership Award:** At the end of the preliminary session, the semifinal session and the final session, the students in each chamber shall preferentially rank a number of students in the chamber. The student who advances to the final round in the Senate and in the House with the lowest cumulative rank total will earn the leadership bowl, with ties broken:
- A. Dropping the highest and lowest ranks
 - B. Reciprocal fractions
 - C. Most first place ranks
 - D. Placement by the judges, with any applicable tie-breakers factored
- VI. **Trophies and Awards**
- A. Gavels: Preliminary session (10-11-inch gavel), 88 count; Semifinal session (12-14-inch gavel), 16 count; Final session (24-inch gavel), 2 count
 - B. Non-advancing semifinalists: Senator Karl E. Mundt Medallions, 72 count
 - C. All final session contestants: Senator John C. Stennis Medallions, 48 count
 - D. Trophies (on-stage presentation at awards assembly): 1st through 6th in Senate and House, 12 count; 7th through 14th in Senate and House, 16 count; Gavels presented to Final session Presiding Officers, 2 count
 - E. *Karl E. Mundt National Congress Trophy* – This honor – awarded since the first National Congress in Wooster, Ohio in 1938 – is presented each year to the school represented at that year's National Congress whose students have accumulated the most participation points, awarded as follows:
 1. One point for each legislative day
 2. Two points for advancing, or for being elected Presiding Officer in a session
 3. Three points for placing 4th, 5th, or 6th
 4. Four points for placing 2nd or 3rd place
 5. Five points for the national champion in the Senate and House
 6. Upon earning this award, a school's total resets to zero

Supplemental and Consolation Event Procedures

Supplemental Events

1. Contestants eliminated from the main events after round 8 and Congressional Debate preliminary sessions may participate in up to two of the speech events OR Extemporaneous Debate if pre-registered in each. As soon as eliminated, the students should report promptly to supplementary re-registration during the posted time
 - a. Expository Speaking
 - b. Extemporaneous Commentary
 - c. Prose
 - d. Poetry
 - e. Extemporaneous Debate
2. Two downs eliminate a contestant.

Consolation Events

3. Each student eliminated in all events prior to Thursday morning or Congressional Debate contestants who do not advance to finals – if previously registered – may enter Impromptu or Storytelling.
4. A single down eliminates a contestant.

Sectioning and Tabulation

5. **Sectioning and Panels:** sections of 5, 6 or 7 will be evaluated by a single judge.
6. **Elimination:** all ties will be broken, and a “down” is defined in these events as:
 - a. Rank of 3, 4 or 5 in a section of 5
 - b. Rank of 4, 5 or 6 in a section of 6
 - c. Rank of 4, 5, 6, or 7 in a section of 7
7. **Semifinals:** When the number of contestants in a supplementary or consolation event reaches 18 or fewer, a semi final round may be held. Each section will have 3 judges and the sections will be apportioned: 18 (6, 6, 6); 17 (6, 6, 5); 16 (6, 5, 5); 15 (5, 5, 5); 14 (7, 7); 13 (7, 6); 12 (6, 6); 11 (6, 5); 10 (5, 5); 9 (5, 4); 8 (4, 4).
8. **Finals:** Three or five judges will evaluate the final round. Winners will be chosen by adding the ranks of all preliminary rounds in which all students participated to the semifinal and final judges’ ranks.

Event Rules

Policy Debate

1. **Resolution:** The resolution will be one requiring a policy judgment. The current school year topic determined by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will be used.
2. **Order of Speeches:** Each debater must give one and only one constructive speech, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal speech, in the following order:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
<i>Prep time</i>	5 minutes per team

Congressional Debate

1. **National Legislation**
 - a. Each district can submit one or two items of legislation, preferably one bill and one resolution.
 - b. The National Office will review the legislation and select one item to be considered by a national committee of coaches.
 - c. District identity will be kept blind from the committee, but legislation will be grouped in six geographic regions of a balanced number of League districts to ensure geographic diversity.
 - d. The committee will rate each bill and resolution, and rank within each geographic region. The top six ranked legislation, plus the next highest rated legislation overall will advance to a docket of 37 items, to be ranked again by the committee.
 - e. The top 12 items ranked by the committee will comprise the semifinal docket for the National Tournament.
 - f. The next 25-ranked items will comprise the docket for preliminary sessions.
 - g. The National Office will add another four items of legislation as “reserve” items for the final preliminary session; these will be selected to avoid duplication of topics already selected, and from the next-highest rated items, as well as from a variety of geographic regions.
 - h. Legislation for the final session will be written by bipartisan fellows from the Stennis Center for Public Service, in consultation with the National Office to avoid duplication of topics and a balance of debatable issues.
2. A **session** is defined as including:
 - a. Minimum of three hours of debate (not including elections and recesses)
 - b. Election of a presiding officer
 - c. New seating chart (necessary accommodations for students with special needs may be made)
 - d. Resetting of precedence/recency
 - e. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session at that tournament
3. **Recognizing Speakers**
 - a. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:
 - i. First recognize students who have not spoken during the session
 - ii. Next recognize students who have spoken fewer times

- iii. Then recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently)
 - b. **[New in 2012-13]** Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. S/he may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of students asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time).
 - c. When a new session begins, precedence/recency will be reset along with a new seating chart, and election of a presiding officer.
 - d. Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain his/her recognition process and it must be fair, consistent and justifiable.
 - e. Scorers will include answers to questions when evaluating speeches. For the district congress, a student receives 1-8 points per speech or 4-8 points per complete hour of presiding, up to 40 points per day.
 - f. A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of his/her three minutes (see #6 below regarding questioning).
4. **Speeches introducing legislation** are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. A student from the school (or at the national level, the District) who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called *authorship*), regardless of precedence; otherwise the presiding officer may recognize a “sponsor” from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Regardless, this speech of introduction must be followed by two minutes of questions. Should no student seek recognition for the authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a student is prepared to introduce it.
 5. **The first negative speech** must be followed by two minutes of questions.
 6. **Following the first two speeches** on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle” rule, however, if debate gets “one-sided,” the chamber may decide to move the previous question.
 - a. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker must be penalized at least three points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
 - b. In the event a student speaks on an item of legislation *not currently* being debated, said speech shall count in precedence, but zero points shall be awarded.
 7. **The presiding officer fairly and equitably recognizes members to ask questions** following each speech. The presiding officer starts timing questioning periods when s/he has recognized the first questioner, and keeps the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions, and may only ask one question at a time (two-part/multiple-part questions are not allowed, since they monopolize time and disallow others to ask their questions). There is no formal “permission to preface,” however, presiding officers should discourage students from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available.
 8. The presiding officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor, however, he/she should not call for motions (at the beginning of a session, the presiding officer should remind members to seek his/her attention between speeches).
 9. **Amendments** must be presented to the presiding officer in writing (an official form is available in this manual’s appendix), with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend.
 - a. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment is “germane” – that is, it upholds the original intent of the legislation – otherwise, it is considered “dilatatory.” The title of the legislation may be changed.
 - b. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once that motion is made, the presiding officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless he/she rules it dilatatory.

- c. Should students wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence in the chamber, and the speech will be counted toward their total, accordingly.
 - d. Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning.
 - e. Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation.
 - f. If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it.
10. **All major voting** (such as the main motion/legislation) which a Congressperson’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer.
11. Students should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (move a personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker who is addressing the chamber.
12. **Ethics and Evidence**
- a. Conduct
 - i. A congressperson’s conduct shall be above reproach and he/she should never be guilty of intentional harassment. Impeaching and censuring other participants is not allowed.
 - ii. Participation in this event demands the seriousness of purpose and maturity possessed by real world policymakers. All adult officials, including scorers, will hold each participant to this standard.
 - iii. Congresspersons should have a cooperative nature and if there is a problem, then the student should take any concerns to an adult official.
 - iv. Participation in the legislative debate is essential. Extended absence from the chamber during a session will affect a contestant’s overall impression and performance. The practice of “open chambers” interferes with the parliamentarian’s ability to monitor student participation.
 - b. Evidence and Use of Electronic Devices
 - i. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate, provided they do not require electronic retrieval devices in the chamber.
 - ii. All evidence used is subject to verification – **see Debate General Rule 7.a.ii., p. 10**. Honesty and integrity are of utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.
 - iii. Please see guidelines for use of electronic retrieval devices (p. 7). Cell phones, music players and games are not to be used in the chamber during a session. Traditional timing devices are permitted.
13. Since the rules above ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the presiding officer should rule such motions *out of order*; except to extend questioning and allow for open chambers provided the tournament staff permits doing so.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Event description – Lincoln-Douglas debate is designed to center on a proposition of value. A proposition of value concerns itself with what ought to be instead of what is. A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. Debaters are encouraged to develop argumentation based upon a values perspective. To that end, no plan (or counterplan) will be offered by the debaters. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, a plan is defined by the League as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. **The debate should focus on reasoning to support a general principle instead of particular plans and counterplans.** Debaters may offer generalized, practical examples or solutions to illustrate how the general principle could guide decisions.

Order of speeches:

Affirmative Constructive	6 Minutes
Negative Cross Examination	3 Minutes

Negative Constructive	7 Minutes
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 Minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 Minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 Minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 Minutes
Prep Time	4 Minutes per debater

The hallmarks of Lincoln-Douglas debate include:

1. **Parallel Burdens** - No question of values can be determined entirely true or false. This is why the resolution is debatable. Therefore neither debater should be held to a standard of absolute proof. No debater can realistically be expected to prove complete validity or invalidity of the resolution. The better debater is the one who, on the whole, proves his/her side of the resolution more valid as a general principle.
 - a. *Burden of proof*: Each debater has the equal burden to prove the validity of his/her side of the resolution as a general principle. As an LD resolution is a statement of value, there is no presumption for either side.
 - b. *Burden of clash*: Each debater has an equal burden to clash with his/her opponent's position. After a case is presented, neither debater should be rewarded for presenting a speech completely unrelated to the arguments of his/her opponent.
 - c. *Resolutional burden*: The debaters are equally obligated to focus the debate on the central questions of the resolution, not whether the resolution itself is worthy of debate. Because the affirmative must uphold the resolution, the negative must also argue the resolution as presented.

2. **Value Structure** -The value structure (or framework) is established by the debater to serve two functions: a) to provide an interpretation of the central focus of the resolution, and b) to provide a method for the judge to evaluate the central questions of the resolution. The value structure often consists of a statement of the resolution (if affirming), definitions (dictionary or contextual), the value premise (or core value), and the value criterion (or standard). This structure is commonly but not always employed.
 - a. *Definitions*: The affirmative should offer definitions, be they dictionary or contextual, that provides a reasonable ground for debate. The negative has the option to challenge these definitions and to offer counter-definitions.
 - b. *Value Premise/Core Value*: A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. that serves as the highest goal to be protected, respected, maximized, advanced, or achieved. In general, the debater will establish a value which focuses the central questions of the resolution and will serve as a foundation for argumentation.
 - c. *Value Criterion/Standard*: In general, each debater will present a value criterion (a standard) which the debater will use to:
 - i. explain how the value should be protected, respected, maximized, advanced, or achieved.
 - ii. measure whether a given side or argument protects, respects, maximizes, advances, or achieves the value.
 - iii. evaluate the relevance and importance of an argument in the context of the round.
The relationship between the value premise and the criterion should be clearly articulated.

During the debate, the debaters may argue the validity or priority of the two value structures. They may accept their opponent's value structure, prove the superiority of their own value structure, or synthesize the two.

3. **Argumentation** – Because Lincoln-Douglas debate is an educational debate activity, debaters are obligated to construct logical chains of reasoning which lead to the conclusion of the affirmative or negative position. The nature of proof may take a variety of forms (e.g., a student’s original analysis, application of philosophy, examples, analogies, statistics, expert opinion, etc.). Arguments should be presented in a cohesive manner that shows a clear relationship to the value structure. Any research should be conducted and presented ethically from academically sound and appropriately cited sources.
4. **Cross-Examination** - Cross-examination should be used by the debater to clarify, challenge, and/or advance arguments in the round.
5. **Effective delivery:** Lincoln-Douglas debate is an oral communication activity that requires clarity of thought and expression. Arguments should be worded and delivered in a manner accessible to an educated non-specialist audience. This encompasses:
 - a. **Written communication:** Cases and arguments should be constructed in a manner that is organized, accessible, and informative to the listener. The debater should employ clear logic and analysis supported by topical research.
 - b. **Verbal communication:** The debater has the obligation to be clear, audible and comprehensible, and to speak persuasively to the listeners. Additionally, debaters should strive for fluency, expressiveness, effective word choice, and eloquence.
 - c. **Non-verbal communication:** The debater should demonstrate an effective use of gestures, eye-contact, and posture.

Throughout the debate, the debaters should demonstrate civility as well as a professional demeanor and style of delivery.

Public Forum Debate

1. **Resolution:** Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.
2. **Procedure and order of speeches**
 - a. Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.
 - b. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins. Each speaker has four minutes for constructive arguments, alternating between pro and con. (The debate may begin with a con speech.)
 - c. Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire". [In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor"] However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will.]
 - d. At the end of the first "crossfire", the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak.
 - e. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute "crossfire" takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above.
 - f. Following the four constructive speeches and two "crossfire" segments, the 1st speakers for each team will each give a 2-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refuting of arguments it is losing.

- g. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question.
- h. At the conclusion of the "Grand Crossfire", the second speakers will each give a 2-minute "Final Focus" speech. The "Final Focus" is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.

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	2 Minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team B	2 Minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 Minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A	2 Minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B	2 Minutes
Prep Time	2 Minutes per team

- 3. **Plans/Counterplans:** In Public Forum Debate, the League defines a plan or counterplan as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

Extemporaneous Speaking

- 1. **Divisions:** Two divisions of extemporaneous speaking will be held at the district and national level:
 - a. **United States Division:** Questions will cover U.S. domestic **and** U.S. foreign policy.
 - b. **International Division:** Questions will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.
- 2. **Topics:** The tournament director will procure topics phrased for contest use and based on subjects discussed in standard periodicals during the current school year. Each topic must be in the form of a question. The contents of the list shall not be disclosed except as contestants draw topics therefrom. There shall be a new subject area for each round, and no duplication of topics between the divisions.
- 3. **Drawing:** Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker draws three questions, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes.
- 4. **Preparation:** As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles, provided:
 - a. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - b. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - d. Topical index without annotation may be present.

No other material will be allowed in the extemp. prep room other than stated above. Extemp. speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines are prohibited from the extemp. prep room. Underlining or highlighting in extemp. will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. **Please see rules in the "Overarching Competition Rules" section concerning use of electronic retrieval devices in Extemporaneous Speaking.** Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any League Extemp. competition must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association [consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition)* or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>].

5. **Notes:** Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids is prohibited during the speech. In other words, **students may not remove any notes from the prep room to take to their contest rooms.**
6. **Time:** The time limit in both extemporaneous speaking events is 7 minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the “grace period”, the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
7. **Recuse:** Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp. Proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp. monitor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited.
8. **Cross-Examination:** In the semifinal and final rounds, each speaker shall be assigned a speaker order position. Drawing shall take place at twelve-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after speaker first has drawn, speakers first and last shall enter the contest room. Speaker first shall give a speech and speaker last shall listen and may take notes. At the conclusion of speaker first’s speech, speaker last shall question speaker first for two minutes. Speaker last shall return to the prep room and speaker first shall stay and question speaker second. Speaker second will question speaker third, etc. Unless it is unavoidable, students from the same school shall not cross-examine one another. Speaker order should be adjusted accordingly.

Interpretation

This includes categories of individual (solo) performance of dramatic (serious) and humorous literature, as well as duo performance of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works as well as limited online works as provided for in the rules below.

1. **Divisions.** Contests are conducted in Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation. See additional rules for the supplemental and consolation interpretation events of Poetry, Prose, and Storytelling.
2. **Length:** The time limit in Interpretation Main Events (Humorous, Dramatic and Duo Interpretation) is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period”. If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the “grace period”, the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
3. **Material:** Selections used in these contests must be cuttings from a single work of literature – from one short story or one play, or one novel, or one or more poems – as described in the following subsections:
 - a. **Print Publications:** includes novels, short stories, plays or poetry, published in print
 - b. **Digital (Online) Publications: [New in 2012-13]** material is only allowed from pre-approved online publishing sources listed for the current school year (subsection ii), **which meet web page standards enumerated in subsection i:**
 - i. **The website offers online material published directly on its web page(s).** Even if the site has multiple formats, such as PDFs, only material that can be printed directly from the web page is allowed. Downloaded files will NOT be accepted. The League defines a web page as a document coded with hypertext markup language (HTML), displayed in a web browser. The League defines a downloaded file as a specific non-hypertext format, such as PDF or word processing document.
 - ii. **Sources approved for the 2012-2013 school year are:**
 - 1) <http://www.theadironackreview.com>
 - 2) <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/xconnect/>
 - 3) <http://www.contemporaryworldliterature.com>
 - 4) <http://www.freedrama.net> - *Disclaimer: The “Mad-Scripts!” material under the Free Drama Education section of the site is not acceptable; however, all other material on the site is acceptable for use.*
 - 5) <http://frontporchjournal.com/index.asp>

- 6) <http://www.inversetheater.org/bromleyplays.html>
 - 7) <http://www.memorious.org>
 - 8) <http://mushroom-cloud-press.myshopify.com/pages/nfl-compliance>
 - 9) <http://www.oscarwildecollection.com> - *Disclaimer: The PDF documents on this site are not acceptable; however, all other material is acceptable for use.*
 - 10) <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>
 - 11) <http://speechgeek.com>
 - 12) <http://www.storysthrough.com>
 - 13) <http://tclj.toasted-cheese.com> - *Disclaimer: Only material listed under the links "literary magazine" and "articles" contain material on the site acceptable for use.*
- iii. These guidelines determined digital (online) publication sources selected:
- 1) The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance. Unacceptable sites include:
 - a) Personal sites (social network profiles, blogs)
 - b) Personal professional sites (those where a writer who has his/her own site and can place his/her works for sale or view)
 - c) Publish it sites (those with one click upload or that accept submissions without a selection process)
 - 2) Texts must come from a verifiable website that can be accessed universally by any user. The site and literary text needs to be verifiable on the web if challenged.
 - a) Unmarked or casual sites where individuals can easily post work either for performance or criticism will not be accepted.
 - b) The website has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to submission for consideration by the National Forensic League for the upcoming school year (several online tools allow for verification of the existence of a website).

→ For more information, please see:
<http://www.nationalforensicleague.org/asp/content.aspx?id=243>

- c. **Prohibited material:** not published in print or allowable online material as per above, including:
- i. Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, MP3s, or phonograph recordings).
 - ii. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine, or yearbook.
4. **Source Verification:** It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material.
- a. **Print Publications:** The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used. A complete script of the cutting includes:
 - i. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
 - ii. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
 - iii. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink.
 - b. **Digital (Online) Publications:** The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition, additionally, a printed manuscript must be available:
 - i. Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen:
 - 1) The first page in the website (the home page)
 - 2) All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript
 - 3) All web pages upon which the cutting appears
 - ii. Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer:
 - 1) Date the page was printed
 - 2) Web address

- iii. Only the printed manuscript shall be considered adequate proof of authenticity. In other words, the student or coach must provide printed pages or an identical copy for examination.
 - iv. The highlighted manuscript submitted for material verification will follow the same rules designated for printed publications (see section “a” immediately above).
 - v. The website and online version of the digital publication need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individual filing the protest. NOTE: If tournament officials cannot gain online access and the above requirements have been met, the piece is considered legal for use.
- c. All quarterfinalists are required to turn in the original source OR printed web manuscript (as outlined above under Source Verification) to the ombudsmen by noon on the third day of competition. Photocopies are not acceptable. Any contestant failing to produce the original source to the ombudsmen by the aforementioned deadline will not qualify for the semifinal rounds of competition.
5. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:
- a. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
 - b. Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation selections must be presented from memory.
 - c. In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
 - d. Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
6. **Focus:** In Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself.
7. **Re-Use:** A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in National Forensic League district or national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.
8. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for subsequent rounds, interpreters who have **qualified for round 11** must present the original source of the cutting to the Ombudsmen AT LEAST ONE HOUR prior to round 11.

Original Oratory

1. **Contest:** This contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.
2. **Subject:** Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
3. **Length:** The time limit in Original Oratory is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period”. If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the “grace period”, the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stop watch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
4. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
5. **Script:** The orator's script must be sent to the District Chair no later than two weeks prior to the district tournament. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a works cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant.

Extemporaneous Commentary Rules

1. **Topics:** The National Secretary shall obtain a list of topics phrased for contest use based on subjects announced in the *May Rostrum*. The contents of the list shall not be disclosed except as contestants draw topics therefrom.
2. **Drawing:** Twenty minutes before the round is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of six minutes. The same list of topics shall be used for the drawing by each section. A different topic area will be chosen each round.
3. **Preparation:** As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles therefrom, provided:
 - a. They are originals or Xeroxed copies of originals.
 - b. Original articles or copies are intact and uncut.
 - c. No written material is on originals or copies.
 - d. Topical index without annotation is allowed.No other material shall be allowed in the Commentary prep room other than stated above. Speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred from the prep room. Underlining or highlighting will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. No electronic retrieval device may be used, but printed materials from "online" computer services may be used. Source citations of such materials must meet MLA standards.
4. **Recusal:** A contestant may not leave the prep area without first checking out with the proctor.
5. **Notes:** No notes are allowed during presentation.
6. **Time:** Contestants shall speak not more than five minutes. No minimum time is mandated.
7. **Presentation:** The commentary **must** be delivered seated behind a table or desk.

Prose and Poetry Rules

1. **Prose:** Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies).
2. **Poetry:** Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.
3. **Selections:** Only published, printed works may be used, unless the works meet the Interpretation Rules (p. 30) for online material. No plays or other dramatic materials may be used. In Prose and Poetry, a student **may not** use the same source s/he used in Duo, Dramatic or Humorous at any National Forensic League tournament.
4. **Time:** Presentations shall not last more than five minutes. Other than brief overtime may be penalized.
5. **Presentation:** Performances must be from a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted.

Extemporaneous Debate

1. The national office will release topics and determine the order in which the resolutions will be debated, which will be published and made available to all contestants prior to the beginning of round one. All contestants in each round will debate the same resolution.
2. Contestants will be assigned sides by the tab room. Both contestants must use mandatory prep time at the same time.
3. The topic is to be debated literally. Debaters are prohibited from using published or digital materials (dictionaries, magazines, books, etc.), prepared arguments, or other similar resources in the debate. Notes and/or an outline may be used but the debater but should speak extemporaneously rather than read

prewritten speeches. Debaters should signpost, explain/warrant, and impact their arguments, referencing current fact and opinion where appropriate.

4. All speeches are two minutes in length and all speech times are protected; a speaker may not be interrupted. The proposition debater must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition debater must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition debater's case. Debaters need not restrict themselves to the most obvious arguments for or against the resolution but should focus on the main reason(s) to affirm or reject it.

Proposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Proposition	1 Minute
Opposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Opposition	1 Minute
Mandatory Prep Time	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Mandatory Prep Time	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes

5. Judges will record a win or a loss for each entry. Ballots will not be returned to the contestants.
6. Contestants are eliminated from competition following their second loss.

Expository Rules

1. **Purpose:** Expository speeches are original compositions of the contestant. The expository speech is a speech to inform, not a performance. It should describe, clarify, illustrate or define an object, idea, concept, or process. A fabricated topic/subject may not be used. In Expository, a student may not use any portion of his/her original oration entered at any League tournament.
2. **Time:** The maximum time of presentation is five minutes. There is no minimum time.
3. **Aids:** No note cards, audio and/or visual aids are allowed. NO animals or other person(s) may be used as aids or aides. Items of dress put on and removed during the course of the presentation are considered visual aids and may not be part of the contestant's presentation.

Impromptu Rules

1. **Topics:** topics will include proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations, and famous people.
2. **Drawing:** A judge in each section/room shall be provided an envelope containing a uniform set of topics, with a different subject area used for each round. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room, and wait outside the door. Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two.
3. **Preparation and delivery:** The speaker has seven minutes in which to prepare a response and present a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles therefrom, provided:
 - a. They are originals or Xeroxed copies of originals.
 - b. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on original or copy.
 - d. Topical index without annotation is allowed.
4. No other material shall be allowed in the room other than stated above. Speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred. Underlining or highlighting in materials will be allowed if done in one color on each article or copy. No electronic retrieval device may be used, but printed materials from online computer services may be used.
5. **Recuse:** Once a speaker has spoken, s/he may listen to other speakers in that round.

6. **Notes:** No notes shall be used during presentation.
7. **Time:** There is NO minimum qualifying time, but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. **Maximum time is seven minutes for both preparation and speaking.**

Storytelling Rules

1. A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend must be *retold* without notes or props.
2. The maximum time is 5 minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. Any introduction must be included within the 5 minute time limit.
3. The student may not tell a story s/he used previously in any National Forensic League district and/or national tournament.
4. The delivery must be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The story may be delivered standing or seated.
5. Gestures, pantomime and characterization, may be used with restraint but the focus must be on the narrative.
6. The retelling must be true to the original tale. The contestant may *not* add original material or materially change the content of the story.

- 6) <http://www.inversetheater.org/bromleyplays.html>
 - 7) <http://www.memorious.org>
 - 8) <http://mushroom-cloud-press.myshopify.com/pages/nfl-compliance>
 - 9) <http://www.oscarwildecollection.com> - *Disclaimer: The PDF documents on this site are not acceptable; however, all other material is acceptable for use.*
 - 10) <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>
 - 11) <http://speechgeek.com>
 - 12) <http://www.storysthrough.com>
 - 13) <http://tclj.toasted-cheese.com> - *Disclaimer: Only material listed under the links "literary magazine" and "articles" contain material on the site acceptable for use.*
- iii. These guidelines determined digital (online) publication sources selected:
- 1) The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance. Unacceptable sites include:
 - a) Personal sites (social network profiles, blogs)
 - b) Personal professional sites (those where a writer who has his/her own site and can place his/her works for sale or view)
 - c) Publish it sites (those with one click upload or that accept submissions without a selection process)
 - 2) Texts must come from a verifiable website that can be accessed universally by any user. The site and literary text needs to be verifiable on the web if challenged.
 - a) Unmarked or casual sites where individuals can easily post work either for performance or criticism will not be accepted.
 - b) The website has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to submission for consideration by the National Forensic League for the upcoming school year (several online tools allow for verification of the existence of a website).

→ For more information, please see:
<http://www.nationalforensicleague.org/asp/content.aspx?id=243>

- c. **Prohibited material:** not published in print or allowable online material as per above, including:
- i. Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, MP3s, or phonograph recordings).
 - ii. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine, or yearbook.
4. **Source Verification:** It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material.
- a. **Print Publications:** The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used. A complete script of the cutting includes:
 - i. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
 - ii. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
 - iii. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink.
 - b. **Digital (Online) Publications:** The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition, additionally, a printed manuscript must be available:
 - i. Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen:
 - 1) The first page in the website (the home page)
 - 2) All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript
 - 3) All web pages upon which the cutting appears
 - ii. Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer:
 - 1) Date the page was printed
 - 2) Web address

- During the questioning periods in Policy and LD, the time belongs to the debater asking the questions. The questions should be brief and the answers short and specific. The person answering the questions should not be permitted to refute, but should be limited to simply answering the questions. The questioner should not be permitted to comment on the answers.
- During the "crossfire" questioning periods in Public Forum debate, the time belongs to all debaters to ask and answer questions. The first speaking team should give the first question of each crossfire period. The questions and answers should be brief and specific. Speakers should stand during regular Crossfire and should remain seated for the Grand Crossfire.

AFTER THE ROUND:

- Check your codes carefully. This is especially important when marking the winner of the debate.
- In your written comments, please be as constructive and educational as possible.
- Provide a detailed justification of your decision, referring to the central issues the debaters presented in the round.
- Evaluate the round based only on the arguments that the debaters made and not on personal opinions or on arguments that you would have made.
- Please completely fill out the ballot and return it promptly to the designated location.
- A judge must render a decision no later than 10 minutes after the final speaker concludes.

Making a Decision In Policy Debate

A decision **SHOULD NOT** be based upon:

1. *The merits of the resolution.* The judge should not be influenced by prejudices in favor or against the resolution.
2. *Partiality.* The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of, or partiality for or against, either of the competing teams, their schools, or coaches.
3. *Preconceived notions on arguments.* The judge should not allow his idea of what the best affirmative or negative arguments or cases may be to influence the decision.
4. *Personal preferences on debating style.* A judge should not penalize a team if its style, either in case construction or delivery, differs from that which s/he personally prefers; but should evaluate all styles on the basis of effectiveness in winning conviction.

A decision **SHOULD BE** based upon the consideration of any or all of the following questions:

1. *Skill in analysis.* This includes not only the analysis of the proposition, but also analysis of the debate as it progresses.
2. *Use of evidence.* This includes the use of sufficient evidence and proper reference to source.
3. *Validity of argument.* This includes reasoning and conclusions drawn from the evidence presented.
4. *Clarity of organization.* This includes clear outlining of constructive arguments and easily followed handling of refutation.
5. *Effectiveness of delivery.* This includes all matters pertaining to oral presentation with special emphasis upon extemporaneous abilities.

A team should be **PENALIZED** for:

1. *An unfair interpretation.* If the interpretation is disputed by the negative, it shall rest with the judge whether or not the affirmative is supporting a tenable position.
2. *Discourtesy toward opponents.* Discourtesy should be penalized according to the seriousness of the offense.
3. *Falsification of evidence.* If a team falsifies evidence in support of a point, it shall lose the point, and if the falsification is obviously deliberate, the judge shall impose an additional penalty according to the seriousness of the falsification.
4. *Misconstruing an opponent's arguments.* A speaker who misconstrues an argument unintentionally should not be penalized more than the time wasted. If it is intentional, the team should in addition, forfeit the argument.
5. *Introducing new arguments into rebuttal.* The judges shall disregard new arguments introduced in rebuttal. This does not include the introduction of new evidence in support of points already advanced or the answering of arguments introduced by opponents.
6. *Speaking overtime.* When a speaker's time is up, the judge shall disregard anything beyond a closing statement.

There is general agreement among debate coaches on:

1. *Interpretation.* Judges should regard no interpretation of the question as official, unless the National Wording Committee issues an official interpretation and labels it as such.
2. *Technicalities.* The team shall debate the basic principles underlying the proposition. Too much emphasis should not be placed upon a technicality.
3. *Burden of proof.* A debate team need not destroy all opposing argument. It need only show that the preponderance of argument and evidence rests on its side.
4. *Affirmative burden.* An affirmative team need not destroy all negative argument. It need only show that the preponderance of argument and evidence rests on its side. This holds true equally for the negative team.
5. *Questions.* A team need answer questions only when they are shown to be pertinent and consequential to the debate.
6. *Irrelevant arguments.* Arguments as to whether the proposition is constitutional, or whether it will be adopted are irrelevant.
7. *Direct Clash.* The negative team is primarily responsible for a direct clash, providing the affirmative team is not evading the proposition. The affirmative team is responsible for a clash on arguments advanced by the negative as evils in the proposition.
8. *Delayed replies.* An argument introduced in constructive cases should be replied to by the opponents in time to give the team which advanced the argument an opportunity to reply.
9. *Adaptation.* A high premium should be placed upon adaptive extempore debating. This should not excuse a team for lack of clarity in organization or for errors in the use of English.
10. *Persuasion.* A premium should be placed upon the ability of the debaters to utilize human interest and accepted premises. Fallacies committed in an attempt to gain persuasive power should be treated the same as other fallacies.
11. *Fallacies.* A judge should not discredit an argument as fallacious, unless the fallacy is exposed by the opposition, except in the closing affirmative rebuttal, when the judge shall discredit it upon discovering the fallacy.
12. *Constructive solution.* Credit should be given to the team that most nearly approximates a constructive solution to the problems.
13. *Point of order.* The negative team shall not be denied the right to rise to a point of order after the closing affirmative rebuttal. However, if they argue the point instead of stating the point, they shall be heavily penalized on the point. In this contingency, final disposition of the matter shall rest entirely with the judge. In general, this practice is to be discouraged.

Making a Decision In Lincoln-Douglas Debate

A decision **SHOULD NOT** be based upon:

1. *Personal bias* – A judge’s preference for a side of the resolution or a topic bias should not enter into the decision. A judge must decide the round based on the arguments presented in that round. Objectivity is the primary responsibility of any judge.
2. *Partiality* – The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of or relationship with the debaters, schools, or coaches. If a situation arises where impartiality is in doubt, the judge has the responsibility to report this potential conflict of interest to the tab room.
3. *New arguments introduced in rebuttals*– The judges shall disregard new arguments introduced in the rebuttals. This does not include the introduction of new evidence in support of points already advanced or the answering of arguments introduced by opponents.

A decision **SHOULD BE** based upon the consideration of any or all of the following questions:

1. *Burden of proof* - Which debater has proven his/her side of the resolution more valid as a general principle by the end of the round? No debater can realistically be expected to prove complete validity or invalidity of the resolution. A judge should prefer quality and depth of argumentation to mere quantity of argumentation. A judge should base the decision on which debater more effectively resolved the central questions of the resolution rather than on insignificant dropped arguments.
2. *Value structure* – Which debater better established a clear and cohesive relationship between the argumentation and the value structure?
3. *Argumentation* – Which debater better presented his/her arguments with logical reasoning using appropriate support? Which debater best utilized cross-examination to clarify, challenge, or advance arguments?
4. *Resolutionality* –Which debater best addressed the central questions of the resolution?
5. *Clash* – Which debater best showed the ability to both attack his/her opponent’s case and to defend his/her own?
6. *Delivery* – Which debater communicated in a more persuasive, clear, and professional manner?

A judge should give weight only to those arguments that were presented in a manner that was clear and understandable to him or her as a judge.

Making a Decision In Public Forum Debate

Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury.

A Public Forum Debate should:

- Display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis
- Utilize evidence but not be driven by it
- Present a clash of ideas
- Counter the arguments of the opponents (rebuttal)
- Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum

Public Forum is a unique debate form. While Policy Debate focuses on a plan to solve the problem(s) posed by the resolution, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate focuses on the core value of the resolution, Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.

In Public Forum Debate, the League defines a plan or counterplan as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

New arguments in the “final focus” should be ignored. The “final focus” must be based on argument and issues previously addressed in the debate.

Logical reasoning, maturity of thought, and effectiveness of communication are of primary consideration. Evidence, examples, and analogies are to be used for the purpose of illustration.

In making a decision, a judge should be as objective as possible. Remember these are propositions upon which there may have strong feelings of which the debaters are unaware. Judges should adjudicate the round as it is debated, not as they personally feel.

Cross-Examination or Crossfire Guidelines

General

1. Purpose of Cross Examination: To clarify an obscure point in an opponent's case, to expose factual error or unsupported assertion, or to obtain damaging admissions are the purposes of cross-examination. It should not be used (as it is in law) to attack the witness' personal integrity.
2. Attitudes of Questioner and Witness: Both should appear to be reasonable, cooperative and eager to please. Either one should be "marked down" for unpalatable sarcasm, obvious "stalling," or appearing to browbeat his opponent.
3. Relation to Case: The virtue of any cross-examination decreases unless the results are tied to later speeches. The cross-examination should be an integral part of the debate, not a sideshow.
4. Delivery: Both speakers must talk to the audience. Cross-examination takes the form of an exchange between two debaters, but basically, it is for the benefit of the listeners. In public debates it is vital that both speakers face the audience while questioning or responding. In Public Forum Debate, speakers should stand during regular Crossfire and remain seated for the Grand Crossfire.

The Questioner:

1. Controls the time, and may interrupt the witness to request shorter or more direct answers, or to indicate that the answer s/he has given is insufficient.
2. Must ask fair and relevant questions. S/He should neither comment on the answers, argue with the witness, nor make speeches. S/He should use time for questioning alone, not for either constructive argument or summary. In fact, a conclusion is all the more effective if the audience reaches it without the questioner's help.
3. Should have considerable scope in the questions s/he asks. Since the time is his/hers, s/he may waste time if s/he wants to. The witness should answer even if the significance or relevance of the question is not immediately apparent to him/her.
4. Should begin with common ground on which agreement may be expected, and proceed to areas in which disagreement develops or the witness makes significant admissions. The questioner may well begin with the questions which reveal his purpose: "Do you maintain that the Nationalist Chinese Army stands as a bulwark against Communism in Asia?" "Yes." "And do you further maintain that recognition of Red China would weaken or destroy this bulwark?" "Yes." Agreement on such questions is almost certain, and the questioner clearly indicates the direction of his inquiry.
5. Should develop an attack along the lines of his/her basic case. S/He should limit the number of objectives s/he tries to reach. A series of at least five questions, probing a single issue of the debate thoroughly and following up the leads which the witness' answers provide, is preferable to a miscellaneous assortment of questions lacking interrelation and adaptation to the witness' answers.
6. May not insist on a simple "Yes" or "No" answer unless the question is simple, direct, and factual. Questions about why something is true are necessarily complicated and the questioner cannot expect the witness to answer them briefly. Factual questions are best, and the questioner can ask them in enough different ways to lend variety to the cross-examination.
7. Should phrase questions with the verb first, then the subject, and finally the object or modifying phrase: e.g. "Do you admit the Joseph R. McCarthy is the junior senator from Wisconsin?" S/He should avoid negative questions, or any phrasing with "not": "Do you not know that there have been thirty-seven violations of the Korean truce by the Red Chinese?" The answer to this can only be confusing.
8. May remind the audience and the witness of a relevant fact by beginning the question: "Are you aware that . . ." or "Are you familiar with . . ." However, the questioner's motive in putting such questions should be to put the witness on record concerning the statement involved, and not to present material.

9. Should summarize a series of questions on an issue by repeating an opening question: "Do you still consider, in light of these facts, that the Chinese Nationalist Army stands as a bulwark against Communism in Asia?" This calls for a "Yes" or "No" answer, clearly indicates that the Questioner has concluded that particular approach, and allows the members of the audience to draw their own conclusions.

The Witness:

1. Must answer directly and briefly any legitimate question . S/He should not question the questioner (except in using a rhetorical question as an answer), nor should s/he engage in "stalling" tactics.
2. May refuse to answer a tricky or unfair question -- "When did you stop beating your wife?" -- if s/he states a good reason for doing so.
3. May ask questions to clarify a question possibly giving the reasons for considering the question obscure, or may ask the questioner to stop making speeches and to continue the questioning.
4. May clarify a question, if to do so is appropriate. S/He should state the qualification before his answer: "Do you believe in the desirability of democratic elections?" "For people educated in the tradition and practice of democracy, yes."
5. Can exercise some control over the question period by controlling the timing of answers. If s/he feels that the questioner is dragging out the question period, s/he can answer rapidly, exposing the questioner's ineptitude.
6. Should not be afraid to admit ignorance if the question demands knowledge of an obscure fact.
7. Should answer without consulting his/her colleague or receiving help from him/her.

(Adapted from *Cross Examination Debating* by Dr. Robert P. Newman and Lloyd H. Fuge, University of Pittsburgh.)

Evaluating Congressional Debate (National Tournament)

- Scorers award between 3 (worst) and 9 (best) merit points for each speech *pertaining to legislation* (nomination/candidacy speeches are not scored), taking the following into account; these scores are noted on the point recording form:
 - Originality of Thought (extent to which speech advances debate or merely repeats previously stated ideas; whether speaker refutes opposing arguments);
 - Organization and Unity (while speeches that respond to other arguments advanced in the session are often spontaneous and extemporaneous, the speaker should attempt cohesiveness);
 - Evidence and Logic (cites credible sources and warrants claims accordingly);
 - Delivery (extemporaneous vs. reading a manuscript, seriousness of purpose, style and poise); and
 - Answers to Questions (demonstrating grasp of issues and ability to defend positions).
- If a student speaks on the wrong side called by the presiding officer, and the error is not caught by the speaker, s/he shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence/recency, but the *speaker must be penalized at least three points* for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
- If a student speaks on an item of legislation *not currently* being debated, said speech shall count in precedence/recency, but zero points shall be awarded.
- Note the presiding officer with an “x” in the PO column, and award 3-9 points per complete hour of service, based on how efficiently s/he facilitated debate through speaker recognition, maintained order, and demonstrated knowledge of parliamentary procedure. An effective presiding officer may hardly be noticeable if the session runs smoothly.
 - In Semifinals, presiding officer candidates will audition. This period is not scored, but speeches given by candidates during this period shall be scored.
 - In Finals, presiding officer candidates will audition. This period is not scored, but the winner of the election will receive point credit for any speeches given during other candidates’ auditions.

Contestant	PO	Speech 1/PO Hour 1	Speech 2/PO Hour 2	Speech 3/PO Hour 3	Speech 4	Points
Rep. Mary Jones		9 8 <u>7</u> 6 5 4 3	9 <u>8</u> 7 6 5 4 3	9 8 7 6 5 4 3	9 8 7 6 5 4 3	15
		Seven	Eight			
Rep. Robert Smith	X	9 8 7 <u>6</u> 5 4 3	9 8 7 <u>6</u> 5 4 3	9 8 7 6 <u>5</u> 4 3	9 8 7 6 5 4 3	17
		Six	Six	Five		

- Please confer with the parliamentarian and presiding officer to confirm *number of speeches given*, but do not confer regarding evaluation and scoring of those speeches.
- Please assist the parliamentarian when assistance is needed, such as in the counting of ballots and/or in the distribution of items. If you have any questions, please check with tournament staff. While you are encouraged to work with the other judges, you do not confer with them on evaluating or ranking.
- At the end of the session, rank your top eight (8) most preferred students, weighing the overall impact each individual student had during the session.
 - In addition to speaking or presiding effectively, did s/he encourage the legislative problem-solving process in a collaborative manner by asking meaningful questions, useful motions, and showing attentive interest throughout the debate? Could you tell which students actually listened by making specific and accurate references to others’ arguments?
 - Ranking the presiding officer (PO) amidst speakers is like comparing apples and oranges. Therefore, consider the overall performance of the PO. Did s/he effectively facilitate debate in an assertive but not aggressive manner? Were motions and votes handled efficiently? Did s/he rely on a number of unnecessary “crutch phrases,” or was her/his word economy exquisite? Considering the PO’s aggregate performance, how would it compare to a speaker’s performance based on your expectations? Let that be your determining factor in how you might rank the PO.
 - Quality is more important than quantity. You may nominate the best legislators even if they didn’t give the most speeches.
 - A student must have spoken or presided to be ranked.

You will return point recording forms and the master ballot to the Congress office after confirming number of speeches and that you have awarded a point score for each speech and for the presiding officer.

Judging Speech Events

Thank you for agreeing to judge a speech round. Your service is especially important as these events are designed to bring judges and debaters together in an educational, productive, and encouraging experience. This activity is designed to teach a variety of skills including analysis, synthesis, and artistic interpretation.

- If a contestant is not present when his/her number is called, the judge is to proceed to the next available speaker. When the contestant arrives, s/he should be heard next. At some district contests, students are participating in another contest scheduled for the same hour and they cannot avoid being late. For the same reason, a student may have to leave immediately after speaking.
- As students announce their titles, the judge is to write the title of the selection in the designated space on the ballot.
- If a contestant does not arrive by the end of the contest, the judge is to inquire about the absent contestant before s/he marks the ballot. Every contestant should be heard.
- After all contestants have been heard, they are to be ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (ties are not permitted) in the order of excellence. Number 1 is the best speaker.
- The judge must be sure to double check the ballot, sign it, seal it in the envelope, and return it to the ballot table.

Speech Event Time Limits

Extemporaneous Speaking (US & International)	7 minute speech with 30 second grace period Preparation time is 30 minutes
Original Oratory	10 minutes with 30 second grace period
Dramatic, Humorous or Duo Interpretation	10 minutes with 30 second grace period
Expository Speaking	Maximum 5 minutes
Extemporaneous Commentary	Maximum 5 minutes (Prep time 20 minutes)
Poetry, Prose, Storytelling	Maximum 5 minutes
Impromptu	Maximum 7 minutes to prepare <i>and</i> speak

Extemporaneous Speaking

The extemporaneous speech should not be regarded as a memory test of the material contained in any one magazine article, but rather as an original synthesis by the speaker of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources.

The contestant therefore should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and discounted severely for shifting to some other phase of the topic on which s/he might prefer to speak. The information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic.

The material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. Delivery should be free from marked defects in the mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, enunciation, fluency, bodily expressiveness -- and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience.

The best extemporaneous speech combines clear thinking, good speaking, and interesting presentation to establish a definite thought with respect to the subject chosen.

Do not require a contestant speaking on a controversial subject to take a personal stand on that issue. S/He may do so, or s/he may elect to present both sides of the controversy as currently set forth in the public press. Judge him/her on the effectiveness with which s/he develops the subject according to his/her own plan.

There is NO minimum qualifying time for the extemp. speech. Do not penalize a contestant for brevity unless s/he

fails to cover adequately the subject s/he has chosen. Maximum time is seven minutes. Impose no penalty for slight overtime, but do so if in your judgment it is excessive.

Time: The time limit in both extemporaneous speaking events shall be 7 minutes with a 30 second “grace period”. If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the “grace period”, the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

Original Oratory

Since the contestants delivering them have written these orations, the judges should consider thought, composition, and delivery. However, since this is a contest in speech rather than in essay writing, the emphasis should be placed on the speech phase. Thought and composition should be considered primarily in the way they are employed to make effective speaking possible.

The orator should not be expected to solve any of the great problems of the day. Rather, s/he should be expected to discuss intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some profit to his/her audience the topic s/he has chosen. Any appropriate subject may be chosen but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, MUST be so identified.

Although many orations deal with a current problem and propose a solution, the judge is expressly reminded that this is not the only acceptable form of oratory. The oration may simply alert the audience to a threatening danger, strengthen its devotion to an accepted cause, or eulogize a person. The orator should be given free choice of subject and judged solely on the effectiveness of its development and presentation.

The composition should be considered carefully for its rhetoric and diction. The use of appropriate figures of speech, similes and metaphors, balanced sentences, allusions, and other rhetorical devices to make the oration more effective should be noted especially. Use of American English should be more than correct; it should reveal a discriminating choice of words and altogether fine literary qualities. It should be especially adapted to oral presentation.

Delivery should be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, bodily expressiveness, and for the qualities of directness and sincerity which impress the oration upon the minds of the audience. An orator should not be penalized for a few seconds overtime.

No particular style of delivery is to be set up as the one correct style to which all contestants must conform. Rather, each contestant is to be judged upon the effectiveness of his/her delivery, free to choose or develop whatever style will best give him/her that effectiveness with his/her particular oration. No visual aids are permitted.

The time limit in Original Oratory is 10 minutes with a 30 second “grace period”. If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the “grace period”, the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

Interpretation

The art of interpretation is to be regarded as recreating the characters in the story presented and making them seem living and real to the audience. Presentation shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects or costume.

A selection for interpretation must be a cutting from a single literary work: one novel, or one short story, or one play, or one or more poems. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation, contestants must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Adaptation may be for the purpose of transition. In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters, so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. [If the selection is prose or poetry and

contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.]

The selection should be judged for its appropriateness as contest material and its suitability to the particular contestant using it. The use of good literature should be noted favorably and a selection devoid of literary merit graded lowest.

This is a contest in interpretation. The contestants should be evaluated on poise, quality and use of voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, physical expression, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. Narrative, if included, should be vivid and animated so as to be an interesting and integral part of the story rather than just "filler" between portions of dialogue.

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the hearer forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried away to the time and place of the story being unfolded.

The time limit in Interpretation events is 10 minutes with a 30 second "grace period". If the judges in the round agree that the student has gone beyond the "grace period", the student may not be ranked 1st, but need not be ranked last based on time. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

Judging Supplemental and Consolation Events

Impromptu Speaking **Revised for 2013**

Invite the contestant to draw 3 topic slips from the envelope. S/he selects one, and returns the others. Start your timer/stopwatch as the contestant sits down to begin preparing a speech. The speaker has seven minutes to both prepare and speak. As the speaker is preparing, verbally call out time used at thirty-second intervals ("30 seconds," "one minute," "one minute thirty seconds," etc.). Once the contestant starts speaking, keep the timer running and signal time remaining (out of 7 minutes) either with your hands or cards. Give signals in one-minute intervals (five fingers for five minutes left, four for four minutes left, etc.) Please give a signal for thirty seconds remaining, e.g., by shaping your hand like a "C." When the speaker reaches seven minutes, indicate time has elapsed (hold up a clenched fist or say "time"). As speakers conclude, ask them to open the door, and announce which contestant to invite in next. Again, if any contestants are not present, move to the next speaker on your ballot.

The Impromptu speech should be regarded as an original interpretation by the speaker of the designated topic as supported by varied materials and gives a contestant opportunity to be creative and imaginative. An impromptu speech should reveal the student's ability to organize his thoughts quickly and in a logical manner. The contestant should be held accountable for strict adherence to the topic drawn and discounted severely for shifting to some other topic on which s/he might prefer to speak. The information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic. The material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. Delivery should be free from marked defects in the mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, enunciation, fluency, bodily expressiveness -- and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience. The best impromptu speech combines clear thinking, good speaking, and interesting presentation with respect to the subject chosen. Notes are not permitted. **There is NO minimum qualifying time. Do not penalize a contestant for brevity unless he fails to cover his subject adequately. Maximum time is seven minutes to prepare and speak. Impose no penalty for overtime unless it is excessive.**

Extemp Commentary

Contestants should strive for a delivery similar to that suitable for public commentary before community groups and/or media audiences.

The contestant should speak clearly, persuasively, and conversationally. Word choice should be precise for accuracy and clarity.

The contestant's content is to be judged on the general effectiveness of the delivery, the depth of the position developed, and the evidential, logical, and emotional support for the position taken.

Contestants are not required to take a specific stance, but could choose any one of several possible positions, e.g., advocacy, criticism, concern, balanced objectivity, commendation, etc.

The presentation will be delivered seated at a table or desk. **The time limit is five minutes.**

Poetry

Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, and their meaning. The more traditional poetry generally has a somewhat regular rhythm, often with a definite, sometimes repeated rhyme scheme. Nontraditional poetry may do away with regular rhythm and rhyme, but rhythmic flow of the individual line remains an integral part of the structure. Unlike prose, which consists of sentences structured into paragraphs, poetry relies on verse and stanza form. Selections from plays (dramas) may not be read in this contest.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to find, understand, experience, and share a poetic work through the art of oral reading.

The contestant will have prepared a presentation which **will not last more than five minutes**, including a required introduction which will state at least the title(s) and author(s). The presentation itself may be of an entire work, a cutting of a single longer work, or a collection of shorter works or short cuttings of longer works by one poet or several poets arranged in a program. Any poem used in the performance must have been printed and published.

The contestant will perform the reading (interpretation) using a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript should be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed.

Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood and imagery, vocal characterization -- if required, creation of unifying effect, etc.).

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection.

Prose

Prose is writing which corresponds to usual (ordinary, common) patterns of speech. Unlike poetry, which emphasizes emotions and/or ideas expressed through figurative language recorded in verse and stanza, prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs. Prose includes fiction (short stories, novels) and nonfiction (articles, essays, journal entries, biographies). Cuttings from plays (dramas) may not be read in this contest.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to find, understand, experience, and share a prose work through the art of oral reading.

The contestant will have prepared a presentation, which **will not last more than five minutes**, including a required introduction that will state at least the title(s) and the author(s). The presentation itself may be of an entire work, a cutting of a single longer work, or a collection of shorter works or short cuttings of longer works by one author or several authors arranged in a program. Any selection used in the performance must have been printed and

published.

The contestant will perform this reading (interpretation) using a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript should be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed.

Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood, vocal characterization, flow of narration, etc.).

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection.

Expository Speaking

Expository speeches are original compositions of the contestant. The expository speech is a speech to inform, not a performance. It should describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept, or process. A fabricated topic/subject may not be used. The text of the speech should be well developed, explain concepts clearly, and be well organized. The language of the speech should exemplify the highest standards of usage, style, and vocabulary.

Delivery should be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, gestures, audience contact, sincerity, and directness. **The time limit is five minutes.** Exceeding it should draw a penalty, but allow some reasonable leeway.

Students are disqualified and placed last for using visual aids, props, objects, or other external aids.

Storytelling

The art of storytelling is to create a mood wherein a spoken narrative transports the audience to the time and place of the story being recounted.

A storyteller is a narrator - not an actor or actress - and although gestures, pantomime, movement, and characterization are not barred, they must be used with restraint.

The focus of the presentation must be on the narrative, with the teller acting as a presenter and not a performer. The teller must clearly grasp and convey the meaning of the tale.

The judge should rate highly the mechanics of superior speaking: fluency, vocal variety, articulation, eye contact, gesture.

The presentation should be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The storyteller may speak standing or seated. No props or visual aids may be used.

"When the teller has been successful in bringing the tale to life, the telling will seem entirely natural, almost effortless"

Extemporaneous Debate

At the beginning of the debate, announce the resolution listed on your ballot for the round. Confirm that both the proposition and opposition team are present and correctly listed. During the debate, the debaters and/or the judge(s) must keep time.

Throughout the debate, the judge will not consider his or her personal opinions or knowledge of the topic. Rather, he or she should evaluate the strength and merits of the arguments offered by the students. Arguments

unaddressed by an opponent are not necessarily important. Judges may determine which arguments have been supported, are most persuasive, or are effectively undermined by the opponent as reasons for his or her decision.

At the end of the debate, if the judge believes that the proposition debater has supported and successfully defended the resolution, s/he will be declared the winner. If the judge believes the opposition debater has successfully undermined the case for the resolution, s/he will be declared the winner.

Clearly indicate the winning team on your ballot and return it to the tabulation room.

National Tournament Awards

Team Awards

Pi Kappa Delta/Bruno E. Jacob Trophy

Each time a student appears in a main event round, his/her school shall receive one trophy point. Trophy points shall accumulate from year to year and the participating school with the largest total at the conclusion of each tournament shall receive the Bruno E. Jacob Award sponsored by Pi Kappa Delta.

School of Excellence Award

School of Excellence Awards given at the National Tournament will require 40 rounds in debate (includes Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, LD and Congress); 50 rounds in individual events; and at least 30 rounds of debate and 40 rounds of individual events for an overall trophy. The speech and debate trophies will be replicas of the overall trophy. Only students reaching round seven will count for Schwan's School of Excellence Awards.

- Speech: Each round of competition counts one point for each eligible student
- Policy Debate/Public Forum Debate/LD: Each round of competition counts one point for each eligible student.
- Congress: Each semifinalist counts 8 points; each finalist ten points, each nominee counts 13 points.

Individual Awards

1. Main speech event contestants eliminated after rounds 8 and 10 (excluding semifinalists) may claim plaques.
2. Main debate event contestants eliminated after round 8 (excluding semifinalists) may claim plaques.
3. Congressional Debate contestants in the final session receive a Stennis Medallion at the Congressional Banquet; Presiding officers receive award gavels in chambers; Congress semifinalists may claim a Senator Karl E. Mundt medals.
4. Supplemental and consolation event contestants eliminated in the semifinal round (non-advancing semifinalists) may claim plaques.
5. The students earning the most merit points in Debate and in Speech during the current year's National Tournament will receive National Recognition.
6. The winner of the Final International Extemporaneous Speaking round will receive the Mehta International Bowl. The winner of the Final United States Extemporaneous Speaking round will receive the President's Bowl. The winner of the Final Original Oratory round will receive the Professor's Bowl. The winners of the final round in Humorous, Dramatic and Duo Interpretation will receive the "Bama" Bowl. The final round "Bama" Bowl for Duo will be named in honor of Sandra Silvers.
7. The top 14 main event contestants and top 6 supplemental and consolation event finalists are awarded trophies.
8. In Policy Debate the top 14 debaters based upon preliminary round speaker points (dropping high and low) will receive speaker awards. The Phyllis Flory Barton Trophy will be presented to the top speaker.

Change Log

The purpose of this section is to document revisions made to the National Tournament Operations Manual. Any policy changes are indicated by a change in the second digit (i.e. 2012.1) while minor edits or revisions to the current document are indicated by a change in the third digit (i.e. 2012.1.1) The following are updates to the original version.

Date	Version	Change Description
5/24/2012	2012.1	<p>Release for the 2012 National Tournament. New for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto-qualification extended from top 6 to top 14 students in each main event from the previous year's National Tournament (p. 5). Regarding protests, only the accused may appeal the decision of the ombudsman. The complainant may not appeal, but may protest subsequent rounds (p. 6). For interpretation material, the cutting performed in the first round of competition must be used throughout the entirety of the tournament in that event (p. 6). Speech event points unified (previously, points earned in Interp. events were less than in speech events) (p. 10). In Congressional Debate, the final round seating chart will be generated by computer (rather than drawn by random number at the beginning of the session) (p. 24). Also, speeches given by presiding officer candidates will be scored with merit points, but auditioning periods for presiding will not be scored (p. 25).
3/28/2013	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Congressional Debate to Debate Evidence Rules and penalties (p. 10, 26) New Congressional Debate speaker recognition rule, disallowing "activity," and "longest standing"/"standing time" added (p. 19, 25) In Congressional Debate, the semifinal session presiding officer audition period has been cut to allow equivalent presiding time during the two separate sessions for the separate judge panels (p. 21). New rules for online source material and verification in Interpretation added (p. 15, 30-32, 33). New rules for Impromptu added. There no longer will be a separate prep room; students will have a combined seven minutes to both prepare and speak in the same room with the judge (p. 34).
5/31/2013	2013.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the number of judges in final rounds, and in speech, dropping at least one high and one low rank to ensure eleven ranks (p. 6 - Overarching Competition Rules 9.; p. 15 - General Rules 2.c.; p. 17 - IV.E.). Clarified speaking order for final rounds of speech events (p. 17 - III.E. added)
6/6/2013	2013.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the previous update was released, the sentence pertaining to college-age judges was erroneously omitted. It has been placed back, with additional clarification (p. 6, #9).
6/11/2013	2013.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the number of Representatives that break in the House (p. 20)
6/19/2013	2013.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrected the reference bullet point on Impromptu time limit, referencing time to prepare <i>and</i> speak (p. 45).

Time Limits



Debate

Policy Debate	
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
<i>Prep time, per team</i>	5 minutes

Public Forum Debate	
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	2 Minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team B	2 Minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 Minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A	2 Minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B	2 Minutes
<i>Prep Time, per team</i>	2 Minutes

Lincoln-Douglas Debate	
Affirmative Constructive	6 Minutes
Negative Cross Examination	3 Minutes
Negative Constructive	7 Minutes
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 Minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 Minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 Minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 Minutes
Prep Time, per debater	4 Minutes

Extemporaneous Debate	
Proposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Proposition	1 Minute
Opposition Constructive	2 Minutes
Cross-Examination of Opposition	1 Minute
<i>Mandatory Prep Time</i>	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
<i>Mandatory Prep Time</i>	1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	2 Minutes

Congressional Debate – <i>applies to each new legislation</i>	
Sponsor Speech	3 Minutes
Questioning of Sponsor	2 Minutes
First Negative Speech	3 Minutes
Questioning of First Negative	2 Minutes
<i>All subsequent speeches</i>	3 Minutes/each
<i>Questioning of all subsequent speakers</i>	1 Minute/each

Speech

Event	Preparation Period	Maximum Time	“Grace Period”
Extemporaneous Speaking	30 minutes	7 minutes	30 seconds
Original Oratory		10 minutes	30 seconds
Dramatic Interpretation		10 minutes	30 seconds
Humorous Interpretation		10 minutes	30 seconds
Duo Interpretation		10 minutes	30 seconds
Extemp. Commentary	20 minutes	5 minutes	
Expository		5 minutes	
Poetry or Prose		5 minutes	
Impromptu	7 minutes to prepare <i>and</i> speak		
Storytelling		5 minutes	