



## Public Forum Pilot Rules 2019-2020

In 2018, the NSDA Board of Directors created a Public Forum Ad Hoc Committee of coaches and former PF competitors to assess the event and determine whether it meets a competitive pedagogical need and the strategic goals of the organization. The committee used community feedback to suggest potential changes while maintaining the integrity of the event. These potential changes were shared at the 2018 National Conference, with coaches and students at summer institutions, through *Rostrum* articles, with coaches at the NDCA, and on an open forum through the NSDA website for all coaches to share feedback. After close to a year of gathering community input, the committee presented recommendations to the NSDA Board of Directors at their Spring 2019 meeting. Below are the recommendations that received a majority vote by the Board of Directors along with a short explanation of the rationale for their adoption.

- 1) Pilot new speech times that add one minute to each summary speech and add one minute to each team's preparation time. These piloted speech times will be used at all NSDA district tournaments in 2019-2020 and at the 2020 National Tournament.**

Community response to the addition of time to prep and summary speeches was overwhelmingly positive. The purpose of extending summary speech time is to open up the debate for more substantive responses to issues that arise in rebuttals. A longer summary speech will also differentiate the summary from the final focus and allow students to balance both developed responses and crystallization. Expansion of prep time to 3 minutes each will allow teams to better prepare in-round for more in-depth argumentation, as well as push debaters to resolve evidence disputes more efficiently during speech time. These speech times will be evaluated by the Board of Directors in 2020. View the new speech times on page 24 of the *Unified Manual*.

First Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team A	3 minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team B	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B	2 minutes
Prep time	3 minutes per team