| **MSHSL Section 2AA**  **Speech Tournament**  **Discussion Tasks** |
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This is a LIVE document. Discussion tasks will be added throughout the tournament. Each task will post 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the round.

Discussion tasks will NOT be brought to rounds. Judges and contestants will be responsible for accessing discussion round tasks using this document.

| **Round 1 Discussion Task** |
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In late February 2022, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that during

the 2021 drought, nearly 800 Minnesota farms pumped 6.6 billion more

gallons of water from ground sources than their permits allowed. The

penalties for this over-pumping were in many cases laughably minimal.

This is far from an isolated case nationally as more and more severe

droughts impact agricultural regions. As experts in the field of ground

water usage and viability, you are meeting at the behest of the Biden

administration to try and determine if there are any uniform solutions to his

issue. You are mindful of the balance that needs to be maintained between

all the relevant interests in those regions. Your determinations will be

forwarded to the current administration for their review and potential action.

| **Round 2 Discussion Task** |
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According to the US Geological Survey, globally since 1970, 83% of

freshwater species and 30% of freshwater ecosystems have been lost. You

are a group of international conservationists. Identify and rank the main

causes of freshwater biodiversity loss. How have those losses impacted the

environment and people? Using examples that have been utilized around

the world to protect and sustain remaining freshwater biodiversity, create a

list of strategies that will have the greatest impact. Your findings will be

used by advocacy organizations in their future conservation efforts.

| **Round 3 Discussion Task** |
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| **Final Round Discussion Task** |
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