

2023 Presiding Officer Script

ALWAYS STAND WHEN ADDRESSING THE CHAMBER!

Hello, fellow legislators and judges. I am _____ from School Code _____, and I am your presiding officer for this session. It is an honor to be here with you today.

Before we begin this session, let me lay down a few ground rules to help move debate along more smoothly today.

First, my gaveling procedures. I will gavel one time at two minutes, twice at 2:30, and three times at 2:55. You will have a ten-second grace period. At 3:05 I will start softly gaveling, and will pick up the pace for five to ten seconds, at which time you **WILL** be instructed to stop for questioning.

We are required by league rules to use Indirect Questioning. I encourage you to keep questions and responses tight in cross-examination, preferably a maximum of 15 seconds for each question and each answer. Please don't abuse time for either speeches or the questioning period. All sponsorship and first negative speeches have a mandatory two-minute questioning period, and all other speeches have a mandatory one-minute questioning period.

A reminder, we are required to have two hours of debate, which begins once the first speaker of this session begins their speech. We are allowed up to 10 minutes of recess time, which is included in the two hours of debate. We will try to take a break at the midway point of the session. Please refrain from requesting "points of personal privilege" for restroom breaks during the session.

We will debate the legislation which has sponsors in this chamber first. After we have finished all those items, we can move on to other legislation.

As to how I will call speakers, the first speech on all items will be given by an author or sponsor. To ensure fairness, after that I will use geography, calling speakers from different areas of the room. Next, the number of speeches given comes into play, where if multiple legislators are standing to be recognized, whoever has given the fewest has priority. And finally, recency, where if multiple legislators are standing and have given an equal number of speeches, whoever has spoken least recently has priority.
Questioning will also be spread fairly across the chamber.

For "personal privilege," no more than one legislator can be absent at a time.

We are now in line to start the session. Is there a motion to open the floor for debate?

Is there a second?

All in favor?

Motion clearly passes.

Our first item is a bill/resolution to _____. Is there a sponsor present?

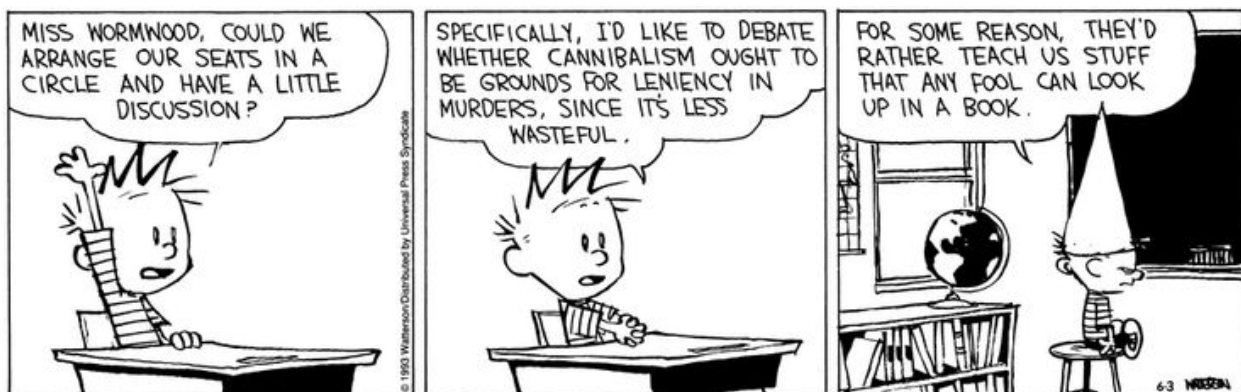
AFTER THE SPEECH IS DONE, SAY, "The time of that speech was _____, questioners please rise." **USE YOUR SEATING CHART AND SPREAD THE WEALTH.** If you are able to say the last name of the questioner, do so; if not, just pointing at the questioner and saying "representative" will suffice.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE "MOVES TO PREVIOUS QUESTION," BUT (in your opinion) THERE ARE STILL A DECENT NUMBER OF SPEAKERS LEFT ON BOTH THE AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE SIDES: *The chair does not have to automatically accept a motion from the floor to end debate on a bill or resolution and move to previous question. Say the following:*

"I appreciate your request, but seeing there are still legislators wishing to speak on this legislation, I will not accept your motion at this time. I will reconsider after we've had a few more speeches on both sides of the legislation, though."

WHEN FINALLY VOTING ON THE QUESTION:

- For what purpose does the speaker rise?
- "Move to the previous question."
- Is there a second?
- "Second."
- It's been moved and seconded, all in favor? All opposed?
- (If it seems like it's not a 2/3 majority, say, "Is there a call for division of the house?" Someone should say yes, after which you do a hand vote. If it's more than 2/3, say, "OK, we are now voting on a bill/resolution to _____, all in favor, please stand. (Count the votes and write it next to the item on the board.) All opposed? (Count them and write them on the board.) Abstentions? (Same.) On a vote of (aff-neg-abstain), this legislation clearly passes/fails.
- Our next item is a bill/resolution to _____. Is there a sponsor present?



YOUR GUIDE TO CONGRESS MOTIONS

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO	WHAT YOU SAY	VOTE NEEDED	EFFECT
Begin debate debating legislation.	"I move to open the floor for debate."	Majority	Officially begin
Stop debating a bill or resolution	"I move to previous question."	2/3	Calls for an immediate vote on legislation
Personal liberties	"Point of personal privilege (to exit chambers)."	Decision of the P.O	Gets permission to leave the congress chamber (for a restroom break)
Debate the legislation later (to table it)	"I move to table the legislation."	Majority	Puts legislation on hold. (It will need to be readdressed before the end of the legislative day.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- There is no such thing as "prefacing a question" or a "two-part question" in cross examination
- **PBCFL rules DO NOT allow for an "open chamber"** (which means legislators must ask for personal privilege at a PBCFL tournament).
- **PBCFL rules allow up to 10 minutes of recess during a single session, which is included in the two hours of debate.**
- You are role playing a federal legislator. You are not a high school student.
- **A debate cycle must be at least three speeches**, and should end after an affirmative speech if at all possible.
- **Recency DOES NOT reset after lunch.**
- **We expect standard questioning in chambers, not direct questioning.**
- "Longest Standing" and "Activity in the Chamber" are faulty speaker recognition systems and SHOULD NOT be used to determine recency.
- Legislation with sponsors in your chamber ALWAYS have priority over legislation whose schools are not in your chamber.

GAVELING PROCEDURES: 1 tap = 2 minutes; 2 taps = 2 minutes 30 seconds; 3 taps = 2:55

AUTHORSHIP/SPONSORSHIP SPEECHES HAVE AUTOMATIC PRIORITY.

AFTER THAT, GEOGRAPHY – AT THE START OF THE OPENING SESSION, THE PO SHOULD BE CALLING SPEAKERS FROM DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE CHAMBER / DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.

NEXT, NUMBER OF SPEECHES GIVEN – IF MULTIPLE LEGISLATORS ARE STANDING TO BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK, WHOEVER HAS GIVEN THE FEWEST SPEECHES HAS PRECEDENCE.

FINALLY, THERE'S RECENCY – IF MULTIPLE LEGISLATORS ARE STANDING TO BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK, AND HAVE GIVEN AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SPEECHES, WHOEVER HAS SPOKEN LEAST RECENTLY HAS PRIORITY.

"Longest Standing" and "Activity in the Chamber" (number of questions asked by a student) are faulty speaker recognition systems and should not be used to determine a fair speaker order.

DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 1

PRESIDING OFFICER: Kelvin Smith, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Clark ALC
American Heritage Palm Beach
John I Leonard
Olympic Heights
Palm Beach Central
Dreyfoos SOA
Suncoast

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

YOU MAY NOT DEBATE THESE ITEMS UNTIL AFTER ALL TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DEBATED. NOVICE CHAMBERS CAN SELECT THE ORDER OF “TIER 2” ITEMS TO DEBATE

If you have any questions, text Wellington Coach Paul Gaba at 561-352-0635.
Make sure you let him know your name and chamber.

DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 2

PRESIDING OFFICER: Colton Brownell, Cardinal Newman

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Palm Beach Central
Dreyfoos SOA
John I Leonard
Suncoast
American Heritage Palm Beach
Spanish River
Wellington

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 3

PRESIDING OFFICER: Raina Hanapole, Spanish River

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Park Vista
Dreyfoos SOA
John I Leonard
Suncoast
Wellington
Palm Beach Central
Olympic Heights

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 4

PRESIDING OFFICER: Maddox Manriquez, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

John I Leonard
American Heritage Palm Beach
Suncoast
Park Vista
Olympic Heights
Martin County
Palm Beach Central

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 5

PRESIDING OFFICER: Maria Ramirez, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Martin County
Suncoast
Palm Beach Central
John I Leonard
American Heritage Palm Beach
Olympic Heights
Park Vista

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 6

PRESIDING OFFICER: John Mueger, Suncoast

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Olympic Heights

Spanish River

Wellington

Suncoast

John I Leonard

American Heritage Palm Beach

West Boca Raton

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 7

PRESIDING OFFICER: Arley Gay, Cardinal Newman

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Suncoast
Spanish River
American Heritage Palm Beach
Wellington
John I Leonard
Olympic Heights
Cardinal Newman

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 8

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ewa Trynieszewski, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Cardinal Newman
Suncoast
Wellington
John I Leonard
Spanish River
American Heritage Palm Beach
Olympic Heights
Clark ALC

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 9

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ethan Michaels, Olympic Heights

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Wellington
Spanish River
Cardinal Newman
American Heritage Palm Beach
John I Leonard
Suncoast
Dreyfoos SOA

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 10

PRESIDING OFFICER: Dylan Gaynor, West Boca Raton

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

Dreyfoos SOA
John I Leonard
Park Vista
Olympic Heights
Wellington
American Heritage Palm Beach
Suncoast
Spanish River

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 11

PRESIDING OFFICER: Aalyiah Lopez, Park Vista

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

American Heritage Palm Beach

John I Leonard

Clark ALC

Wellington

Olympic Heights

Spanish River

Martin County

FAU HS

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 12

PRESIDING OFFICER: Alexa Charlot, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

FAU HS
Spanish River
Martin County
Cardinal Newman
Clark ALC
John I Leonard
American Heritage Palm Beach

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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DOCKET – NOVICE HOUSE 13

PRESIDING OFFICER: Adrian Perez-Rodriguez, Wellington

TIER 1: SPONSORED LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN YOUR CHAMBER)

THESE MUST BE DEBATED IN THE ORDER LISTED:

West Boca Raton
Olympic Heights
John I Leonard
FAU HS
Clark ALC
Spanish River
Martin County

TIER 2: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION (SCHOOLS NOT IN YOUR CHAMBER)

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