

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Public Forum Debate (PF) is a two-on-two team event in which competitors debate current events and policy issues before a general audience. The focus is on clear communication and persuasive arguments rather than the technical aspects of debate.

TEAMS

- ◆ PF teams must consist of two students from the same speech and debate team (students may not form/join a team for this purpose).
- ◆ Maverick entries (a competitor without a partner) are not allowed.
- ◆ PF partners must belong to the same division.

COIN TOSS

Under judge supervision, the students will toss a coin (or use coin toss software) to determine the sides and speaking order for the debate. The team who wins the coin toss chooses either the side of the resolution they will argue (affirmation or negation) or whether their team will speak first or second. The team that loses the coin toss then makes the remaining determination.

FORMAT

Speech	Goal	Time Limit
<i>First Speaker (Team A)</i>	Provide Team A's constructive arguments	4 minutes
<i>First Speaker (Team B)</i>	Provide Team B's constructive arguments; may offer initial rebuttals	4 minutes
<i>Crossfire Between First Speakers</i>	The first speakers exchange questions	3 minutes
<i>Second Speaker (Team A)</i>	Provide counterarguments/rebuttal	4 minutes
<i>Second Speaker (Team B)</i>		4 minutes
<i>Crossfire Between Second Speakers</i>	The second speakers exchange questions	3 minutes
<i>Summary (First Speaker, Team A)</i>	Summarize key arguments/clash	3 minutes
<i>Summary (First Speaker, Team B)</i>		3 minutes
<i>Grand Crossfire (All Speakers)</i>	All speakers exchange questions	3 minutes
<i>Final Focus (2nd Speaker, Team A)</i>	Final appeal: Offer final rebuttals, weigh key arguments	2 minutes
<i>Final Focus (2nd Speaker, Team B)</i>		2 minutes
<i>Prep time</i>	Both teams may pause to prep for up to 3 minutes.	

JUDGING

Judges should evaluate a round of PF like any debate round: rely on the flow to form an RFD that highlights the specific arguments that won or lost the round for each team.