

ISSDA MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE EVENT RULES

Last Updated: September 2026

Discussion, Extemp, and Debate Topics for 2026 (approved 9/12/2026)

- a. Discussion Theme:** Media Literacy
- b. Extemp Theme:** American Civics and Social Studies
- c. MS Debate (26-minute LD format) Resolutions:**
 - i. **October:** Resolved: Space exploration is a moral imperative.
 - ii. **November:** Resolved: De-extinction is ethical.
 - iii. **December:** Resolved: Technological progress has surpassed humanity's ability to use it ethically.
- d. World Schools Debate Propositions:**
 - i. **October:** This house believes that children under the age of 14 should be banned from participating in high-impact sports.
 - ii. **November:** This house believes that schools should ban the use of electronic educational technology.
 - iii. **December:** This house believes that private companies should have the ability to build Data Centers without public input.

BROADCASTING

Round I

Persuasive Editorial: 30 minute prep : 1 minute reading

Round II

Breaking News Reading: 1 minute prep : 45-60 second reading

Round III

News Program: 3 minute reading

Round IV - FINAL

Radio Program: 4 minute reading

Competitors must report to the designated Broadcasting holding/preparation room at the beginning of ALL rounds.

A. Instructions for each round are as follows:

Round 1 = Persuasive Editorial: Presents an opinion on a current issue or situation, using facts and data to support the speaker's viewpoint. Speakers are NOT to utilize any internet accessible device during preparation, including personal cell phones, unless a student has a medical accommodation. It should be written in a formal, authoritative tone, aiming to convince the audience to agree with the stated position. Each competitor shall be given 30 minutes in which to write, edit, and rehearse a one-minute final version of his or her original persuasive editorial prior to the round. This preparation shall be monitored by an adult.

- **Editorial Topics:** Topics are to be presented in the form of a simple question or resolution to which speakers write/present from a position of support or opposition. The topic should be presented in the form of a one sheet handout that includes the question and some frameworks and facts for competitors to use to construct their editorial. They should be over general knowledge topics that apply broadly to Middle School students. [Example Editorial Handout for Reference](#)
- Competitors DO NOT need to incorporate a station intro or outro and should focus their time on articulating their position and supporting it within the editorial reading. They should have natural introductory statements and concluding remarks that flow but need not incorporate a station or theme beyond the posed prompt.

Round 2 = Breaking News Reading: chosen by the Tournament director and selected to address a current event from the past 14 days of the news cycle. The reading will be cut by the Tournament Host to fit within an approximately 45 second to 1 minute time frame. Each competitor will receive the same

copy and have one minute to prepare for its delivery. Competitors must deliver the reading as provided with no editing. Competitors are to be organized in preparation in a staggered fashion so as to assure that all competitors are given the same amount of preparation time.

Round 3 = News Program: All competitors should bring a three minute prepared news program which they have arranged, edited, and practiced beforehand. Competitors should select topical stories and organize them into a meaningful order. A standard newscast is made up of a story of global, national, and local importance as well as weather. Additions like sports, traffic, etc. can also be included for added content.

The tournament director will release a product description for competitors to include in their News Program at least 1 week prior to the tournament. Competitors are to write an original advertisement for the product that should comprise approximately 30-45 seconds of the 3 minute reading.

While chosen news stories ought to be topical and current, only the advertisement is required to be originally produced each week for competition with the new product description provided by the tournament host.

Round 4 - FINAL = Radio Program: All competitors will take their 3 minute prepared news program as detailed in Round 3 and seamlessly integrate the one-minute persuasive editorial they prepared for Round 1 of the tournament. The reading, including their news program and the editorial, should be 4 minutes. Students should be prepared to compete as soon as the Final Round is announced.

B. Basis for judging each round:

Round 1 = Tone, fluency, conviction, accuracy, voice, rhetoric, consistency, informative integrity, logic, articulation, and sense of timing

Round 2 = Accuracy, articulation, fluency, voice variety, authority, clarity, and urgency

- Time should NOT be a factor in the ranking of round 2 as Competitors do not control the length of content

Round 3 = Selection of items for news worthiness, arrangement, transitions, voice variety, articulation, accuracy, salesmanship, creativity, intro/outro, authority, and sense of timing

Round 4 = Combination of qualities for rounds 1 and 3 as well as their prowess in integrating the two pieces of content.

NOTE ON TIME: The time limits given are a target, with competitors trying to achieve a delivery that is as close as possible to the stated time. Ranking placements for being over or under time should be considered within the judges discretion as an even penalty with preference given to those who are closer to the target, whether they be over or under. Competitors are permitted to time themselves during preparation and competition with personal timekeeping devices for all round.

C. Competitors should NOT see each other perform in the round.

D. Judges will NOT be able to see competitors while they are "on the air."

Prep Room Infractions: Any prohibited communication or use of prohibited materials in the prep room should be reported to the Tournament Director, potentially resulting in disqualification.

NOTE ON ROUND STRUCTURE: For regular season competition, tournaments often have only 3 rounds. Individual Tournament Hosts should exclude round 4 and its rules if they intend to host a 3 round tournament.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Topics:

Round 1 = WORD

Round 2 = QUOTATION

Round 3 = SOCIAL ISSUE (Which will be written in question form)

Round 4 FINAL = WORD

Judges:

1. When running a round of impromptu, all competitors enter the room at the beginning of the round, just like any other event, and are audience members.
2. The exception to this is if a competitor is double-entered (in two events) causing them to enter the room once started (this should be done between competitors) or leaving the room before the round is finished. Judges must allow this!
3. Judges are required to keep time for all speeches.
 - a. Competitors are permitted and encouraged to time themselves with a personal timekeeping device.
4. It is required to provide verbal time signals during prep and hand time signals during the speech.
 - a. See below under “process” for more details.

Ranking:

1. Brevity should be penalized only if it discloses a lack of knowledge of the subject or makes the speech incomplete.
2. Each competitor should be judged for his or her ability to think under pressure. They should be judged for the continuity of the speech and the material that they are able to recall on the spur of the moment and mold that information into a logical speech.
3. Each competitor should also be judged on the mechanics of speech— poise, quality, and use of voice, body action, and the ability to hold the attention of the audience.
4. Competitors may choose to use a 4x6 note card as a speaking aid for their speech that is prepared during their preparation time. However, competitors are not to be marked down if they do not use a note card.
 - a. The notecard must not have any previous writings/notes on it before competitors begin their preparation time
5. Electronic devices shall not be used to aid in preparation in any way.

Process:

1. Judges are given an envelope of topics before the round begins (the judge picks this up from the tournament manager).
2. The envelope is not opened until the judge and at least one competitor are in the room and ready to begin the round.
3. During each round, all sections have the same topic bank within their envelope.

4. Each competitor in his/her section will speak on a different topic from the bank provided in the envelope.
5. Competitors draw three topics from the envelope, silently read each slip of paper, choose one, put the two rejected slips back into the envelope (this is so other competitors have the opportunity to draw them), show the judge what was chosen, and begin preparation. While preparing, the competitor may sit or stand, as well as choose to write notes.
6. Each competitor has a total of 7 minutes to prep and speak. There is no minimum time limit for prepping or speaking.
7. Students are allowed and encouraged to time themselves in Impromptu.
8. If requested, the judge begins timing and provides appropriate time signals to the competitor. It is ideal for the judge and competitor to determine time signals prior to the student selecting their topic and beginning their preparation.
 - a. Time signals are typically provided verbally while the competitor is preparing and then provided by visual hand signals noting the amount of time remaining once the competitor has started speaking.
9. Repeat the above process until all competitors have spoken.

NOTE ON ROUND STRUCTURE: For regular season competition, tournaments often have only 3 rounds. Individual Tournament Hosts should exclude round 4 and its rules if they intend to host a 3 round tournament.

DISCUSSION

Round table discussion is characterized by the many informal, spontaneous, brief exchanges of views rather than by a series of long, prepared speeches.

Four to seven competitors will be assigned to a table (this can vary depending on the amount of entries). If possible, it is preferred for sections to be made up of 5 or 6 competitors.

Judging:

1. The judge should sit near but not at the table.
2. The topics for discussion have been pre-determined.
3. The judge is not to participate in the discussion under any circumstance.
4. The number of times a competitor speaks is not as significant as the quality of what is said.
5. Competitors are judged on their skills in analysis and evaluation, contribution and information, validity of reasoning, integrative and cooperative thinking, relevancy of remarks, and presentation.

Process:

1. Competitors will cover the first question in round 1, the second question in round 2, and the third question in round 3, etc.
 - a. Questions will be selected randomly from a published bank of options prior to each round and distributed to judges before they are revealed in round to competitors.
2. No formal opening statements. (The skill of this event is to have competitors learn to listen to others.)
3. There is no moderator. (This includes the judge not becoming involved in the discussion under ANY circumstances)
4. Definitions will be defined within the discussion, not at the beginning of each round.
5. Competitors will use an index card or name tent to present their name and competition number to be displayed on the table in front of them.
6. One-page, front and back, typed, and printed outlines are allowed by each competitor for each round. However, the outlines should not merely be a cut/paste from the Internet. They are also not to be written in paragraph format, rather they should be prepared in a bulleted listing of organized research.
7. Competitors are permitted to utilize a writing utensil and a piece of scratch paper for in-round notes in addition to their typed outline.
8. No electronic devices are allowed to be utilized during the round.
9. No visual aids (i.e. charts, graphs, props) are allowed to be utilized during the round.

NOTE ON ROUND/TOPIC STRUCTURE: The selection of questions for rounds during the regular season is up to the discretion of the Tournament Host. If they so choose, they may opt to assign questions to rounds ahead of time or select randomly each round as the rules outline. Regardless of process, all questions must be released to competitors prior to the tournament.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Topics will be taken from content that is topical and current in its application. The topics will deal with people, social, economic, scientific or political events of US national interest. Typical sources to be used for the selection of topics from any source deemed reputable, reliable, and appropriate by the Tournament Manager. Topics must be written in question form.

If the host school is able to provide equitable and regulated internet access to ALL competitors for preparation, they may elect to do so instead of providing a supplementary article to support student preparation. If they are not able to provide the aforementioned technology, the tournament host must provide fair and reasonable sources of physical media to all competitors to assist them in preparing their speech. Each topic question chosen by a competitor should have a corresponding article with topical information for them to use as source material for their speech.

Process:

1. Receiving question:
 - a. During prep, competitors will draw three slips of paper with a number and question corresponding to an article (if host school is able to equitably provide equitable and regulated internet access, articles may not be provided).
 - b. The competitor will choose one question, return the other two, and receive the appropriate article(s) for the chosen question.
 - c. Competitors will draw in the order of speaking at intervals of five minutes
2. Judges should be aware that competitors may arrive at their room at different times (especially in Round I). Judges should listen to the first speaker as soon as s/he arrives, checking outside the door for new arrivals after each speech. Competitors may choose to remain in the room to listen to other speakers or leave after their turn.
3. Judges are required to keep time for all speeches.
 - a. Competitors are permitted and encouraged to time themselves with a personal timekeeping device.
4. Researching question:
 - a. Competitors will use this provided article as their source, but they can supplement with files/non-annotated articles, if they so choose, that they bring to the tournament.
 - b. Internet usage is not permitted during prep UNLESS devices with regulated internet access are able to provide equitably to all competitors by the host school.
5. Competitors may use one 4x6 inch note card as a speaking aid that they create during prep time.
 - a. Can use front and back of note card
 - b. No word count maximum on note card
 - c. Judges are not to take the note card away from a student for any reason.
6. Competitors may choose to use a note card when speaking. However, competitors are not to be marked down if they do not use a note card.

7. There is no minimum time limit; the maximum time limit is five minutes. Brevity will be penalized only if it discloses lack of knowledge of the subject or makes the speech incomplete.
8. The same speech will be used in all rounds.

Ranking:

1. Competitors are to follow strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and can be penalized for shifting to another topic on which the competitor might prefer to speak.
2. Competitors are to have well-chosen information relative to the subject.
3. There is to be organization of materials according to a logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time limit.
4. Each competitor should also be judged on the mechanics of speech— poise, quality and use of voice, body action, and the ability to hold the attention of the audience.
5. Competitors should utilize a clear, logical structure in their speech (Introduction, Body, Conclusion).
6. The Extemp speech is not to be a memory test of the material contained in any one particular source material but rather an original synthesis of current fact and opinion on the designated topic.

Prep Room Infractions: Any prohibited communication or use of prohibited materials in the prep room should be reported to the Tournament Director, potentially resulting in disqualification.

DECLAMATION

1. Declamation is the delivering of a speech that was presented by someone else other than the speaker.
The author may or may not be an expert speaker.
2. Any subject matter appropriate for competition may be used as long as it was verifiably delivered in real life to an audience at some point in the past.
3. Within the introduction, the competitor should provide the original time, place, circumstances, and presenter of the speech.
4. If content could be seen as triggering, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance
5. The speech must be delivered from memory, without the use of any manuscript.
6. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
7. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully: poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation.
8. No particular style of delivery should be demanded by every speaker; rather he/she should be free to select or develop an individual style and then be judged according to his/her effectiveness in influencing the audience.
9. Competitors are not obligated to interpret the speech in a way that is similar or loyal to the original presenter's delivery; they are free to interpret the content of the speech in any way they deem creatively relevant or appropriate for their own performance of the speech.
10. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes

ORIGINAL ORATORY

1. In this event, the competitors write the speech and deliver it themselves.
2. Any subject matter appropriate for competition may be used.
3. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other speech or writing.
4. Judges must consider both the composition (thought and content), as well as delivery. However, as this is a contest in speech rather than essay writing, the emphasis should be placed on the speech aspect.
5. The orator is not expected in any way to solve the great problems of the day. Rather, they should be expected to discuss intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with consideration to the audience, the topic chosen.
6. If discussing sensitive content in their speech, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance and provide audience members the opportunity to leave prior to the beginning of the performance. Coaches should be prudent in their assessment of student performances and the inclusion of subsequent trigger warnings.
 - a. Judges should allow for these departures and not consider it in any ranking of any student
7. The composition should be considered carefully for its rhetoric and diction.
8. The use of appropriate figures of speech, similes, and other rhetorical devices to make the oration more effective should be considered.
9. English usage should be correct and properly considered within standard English Conventions.
10. Qualities of directness and sincerity which impress the oration upon the minds of the audience should be considered.
11. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully - poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation.
12. The speech must be delivered from memory, without the use of any manuscript.
13. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes.

SCRIPTED DUO INTERPRETATION

Duo is the only event where two Competitors are allowed to work together in their performance.

The selection may be dramatic, humorous, or a combination of both.

1. Must have a memorized introduction which includes the title and author.
2. If content could be seen as triggering, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance
3. The selections chosen must be sections from a published source including plays, short stories, novels, or other publicly available content sources that are not originally created by the performer.
 - a. The choice of material is legal if it is readily available to the public.
4. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
5. Memorized transitions may be utilized (but are not required).
6. Participants may portray more than one character.
7. Competitors will usually be facing the audience during their presentation, although they may “roll” behind each other or stand angled for effect.
8. Competitors must not make eye contact with each other during their performance.
9. No touching each other when performing. This is interpretation without interaction, choreographed in collaboration without direct, physical contact.
10. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
11. Movement is not limited.
12. No costumes, properties (hand or stage), or character make-up is permitted.
13. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes.
14. BOTH competitors are to deliver their performances with the use of a script.
15. Competitors may use their binder as a prop, as long as the binder remains open.

MEMORIZED DUO INTERPRETATION

Duo is the only event where two competitors are allowed to work together in their performance.

The selection may be dramatic, humorous, or a combination of both.

1-12 SAME AS SCRIPTED

13. Performances are to be delivered from memory, without the use of any script.

COMPETING IN BOTH DUO EVENTS:

1. Competitors may enter in both Memorized and Scripted Duo at the same tournament as long as they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Competitors have the same partner in both entries
 - b. Competitors utilize different content in both entries

DRAMATIC AND HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Although dramatic and humorous interpretation are two separate events, because the rules are the same, they will be discussed together.

1. The art of interpretation is to be an attempt to recreate the characters in the story presented and make them living and real to the audience.
2. The selections used in both events must be memorized.
3. The selections chosen must be sections from a published source including plays, short stories, novels, or other publicly available content sources that are not originally created by the performer.
 - a. The choice of material is legal if it is readily available to the public.
4. Selections should be judged for the appropriateness as competition material and its suitability to the particular competitor using it.
5. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
6. If addressing sensitive content in their performance, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance and provide audience members the opportunity to leave prior to the beginning of the performance. Coaches should be prudent in their assessment of student performances and the inclusion of subsequent trigger warnings.
 - a. Judges should allow for these departures and not consider it in any ranking of any student
7. This is an event in oral interpretation. The contestant should be judged on poise, quality and use of voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, and especially the ability to interpret characters convincingly, correctly and consistently.
8. Movement is not limited.
9. No costumes, properties (hand or stage), or character make-up is permitted.
10. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes.

POETRY

1. The poetry selected should have some common theme that is established in the introduction, and transitions if they are used.
2. Selections may be presented in the form of a single continuous poem or a program of poems.
3. The poetry selection(s) must be taken from a published source. The internet may be used.
 - a. The choice of material is legal if it is readily available to the public.
4. The poetry must be interpreted from a script which is placed inside a binder.
5. While eye contact is important, it should be remembered that this is a reading event.
6. Introductions are to be memorized and must include the title and author of all included selections within the piece.
7. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
8. If addressing sensitive content in their performance, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance and provide audience members the opportunity to leave prior to the beginning of the performance. Coaches should be prudent in their assessment of student performances and the inclusion of subsequent trigger warnings.
 - a. Judges should allow for these departures and not consider it in any ranking of any student
9. The judge's decision should be influenced mainly by the reading of the poetry rather than the introductory and transitional material.
10. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
11. Movement below the waist should be purposeful and not excessively used.
12. Competitors may use the binder/book as a prop as long as it remains open throughout.
13. The emphasis on interpreting poetry is on vocal delivery and suggestive gestures, rather than on acting movements.
14. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes

PROSE

1. The prose selected may be from a short story or other literary work that was not originally in script form.
The selection may be fiction or non-fiction.
 - a. The choice of material is legal if it is readily available to the public.
2. If addressing sensitive content in their performance, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance and provide audience members the opportunity to leave prior to the beginning of the performance. Coaches should be prudent in their assessment of student performances and the inclusion of subsequent trigger warnings.
 - a. Judges should allow for these departures and not consider it in any ranking of any student
3. The focus of the piece should be on narration.
4. An introduction should include the title of the work and its author, as well as any other background material essential to the audience's understanding.
 - a. Introduction is to be memorized.
5. The judge's decision should be influenced mainly by the interpretation of the selection rather than the introductory and transitional material.
6. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
7. The story must be interpreted from a script which is placed inside a binder.
8. While eye contact is important, it should be remembered that this is a reading event.
9. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
10. Movement below the waist should be purposeful and not excessively used.
11. Competitors may use the binder/book as a prop as long as it remains open throughout.
12. The emphasis on interpreting prose scripts is on vocal delivery and suggestive gestures, rather than on acting movements.
13. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes

PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

1. The focus of the event is the development of a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, creative implementation, and characterization.
 - a. Source material is not limited to any style or genre as long as it is published and readily available to the public.
2. If content could be seen as triggering, it is prudent for a competitor to include a trigger warning prior to the performance
3. Programs must contain at least two different sources of content.
4. Programs must, by their nature, be programmed so that the different texts are segmented and intertwined with one another in their organization and delivery; content selections are NOT to be delivered in their entirety one after the other but rather spliced and reorganized with other materials to create a dynamic and cohesive performance.
 - a. Consider pieces A, B, and C. Programmed Oral Interpretation Performance would need to divide up these pieces into sections and “program” them.
 - b. For example, the piece could be organized: A1-INTRO-B1-C1-A2-B2-C2-A3-B3-C3-A4-B4-C4
 - c. The order/pattern does not need to be uniform and can be manipulated for the sake of performance
5. The judge's decision should be influenced mainly by the interpretation of the selection rather than the introductory and transitional material.
6. Competitors must use the same piece of content in all rounds of competition
 - a. If a student changes their piece of content from that which was used in Round 1, they will be automatically ranked last for the round with improper content.
7. The performance must be delivered with the use of a script that must remain open. The presentation itself is to be interpreted from the script. The script should be referenced during performance.
8. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the materials being interpreted.
9. Competitors may use the binder/book as a prop as long as it remains open throughout.
10. The performance must include an introduction that cites ALL of the utilized source material.
 - a. Competitors must cite, within their introduction, the title or author of all pieces of content.
 - b. The introduction must be memorized.
11. Movement is not limited.
12. Time Limit: 5-10 minutes

MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE

In Middle School Debate, each side (affirming or negating the resolution) must be represented by only one debater. Sides are assigned rather than chosen, and competitors will debate on both the affirmative and negative sides during the course of each tournament. Competitors are permitted to time themselves with a personal timekeeping device.

Affirmative Constructive – 4 minutes

Negative Constructive – 4 minutes

Question & Answer – 2 minutes (Negative asks 1st question)

Affirmative Rebuttal – 2 minutes

Negative Rebuttal – 2 minutes

Question & Answer – 2 minutes (Affirmative asks 1st question)

Affirmative Defense – 2 minutes

Negative Defense – 2 minutes

Affirmative Final Focus – 1 minute

Negative Final Focus – 1 minute

Prep – 2 minutes per side

Constructives: 1. **Define key terms** that may be challenged. 2. Offer a decision **framework** for the outcome of the debate. This framework may seek to cover the central issue at stake in the debate and/or identify a value that society should pursue—alongside a norm for knowing when that value has been advanced enough to merit a vote for your side. 3. Argue in favor of one or more contentions, supporting claims with warrants (evidence/logic) and impacts (why it matters).

Question & Answer (Crossfire): The speakers who delivered the constructives take turns asking each other **questions**. Use cross-fire to: 1. Understand the other side's case. 2. Reach an agreement on definitions and frameworks.

Rebuttals: Respond in order to each of the **other side's arguments**. You may accept or contest definitions. You may accept the other side's framework, offer a competing framework, and/or argue that your side better achieves the goals of the other side's framework. **Counter** each of the other side's contentions using evidence and/or logic. Explain why your evidence is more credible or relevant, why their warrants actually support your side, and/or why the links connecting their claims, warrants, and impacts are questionable.

Defense: 1. Respond to the **other side's attacks** on your case and explain why your arguments still stand. 2. Explain why your rebuttals merit rejection of the other side's case and/or why your arguments should be given more weight. New defenses may be introduced, but no new attacks.

Final Focus: **Summarize** the debate down to one or two central voting issues (introduced in framework) and explain why you won and/or why your voting issues should be given more weight. Any new arguments will be ignored.

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE

In World Schools Debate, each side (Proposing or Opposing the Motion) must be represented by teams of 3 or 4 debaters. Sides are assigned rather than chosen, and competitors will debate on both the affirmative and negative sides during the course of each tournament. Competitors are permitted to time themselves with a personal timekeeping device.

Proposition First Substantive Speech - 5 Minutes (Present 1st and 2nd Main Arguments)

Opposition First Substantive Speech - 5 Minutes (Present 1st and 2nd Main Arguments)

Proposition Second Substantive Speech - 5 Minutes (Present 3rd Main Argument)

Opposition Second Substantive Speech - 5 Minutes (Present 3rd Main Argument)

Proposition Reply Speech - 3 Minutes (Presented by 1st or 2nd Speaker)

Opposition Reply Speech - 3 Minutes (Presented by 1st or 2nd Speaker)

THERE IS NO ALLOTTED PREP TIME

Teams can use a MAXIMUM of two references. These sources should be of a reference nature: Black's Law Dictionary, Webster's Dictionary, almanac, textbook, etc.

Sides will be set by the tournament program. Before the round begins, each team must declare to the judge the order of speakers, including the reply speech. Only one speaker is allowed to present in each section of the debate. Not every member of the team is required to speak.

During each substantive speech, the opposing team is permitted to request Points of Information (POI's) of the speaker during the middle 3 minutes of the speech. (The first and last minute of each speech is protected time.)

A POI is an opportunity for the opposing team to ask a question of the speaker or to make a statement in opposition. A POI can be asked by any member of the opposing team. The POI can be accepted or denied by the speaker with a simple "No, thank you" or hand motion. It is considered bad form to harass the opposing team with POIs occurring too frequently while convention also suggests that a speaker take 1 POI during their speech at their discretion.

No POIs can be requested during Reply Speeches.

Rounds 1 and 2: Prepared Motion

Round 3: Impromptu Motion

- Preceded by 30-minute Prep Period