

Student Congress Instructions

1. Prior to the tournament, students submit bills to be debated. You will receive a copy of these bills before the rounds start.
2. There will be an announcement of a meeting before the tournament begins. Please be there, as we will announce judge assignments and the schedule for the day.
3. Please go to your first assignment.
4. During the first round, the students will choose a Presiding Officer and set the order of bills to be debated (the docket). This should be done quickly so that the students may begin debating the bills.
5. The author of the first bill will give a 3 minute speech explaining why the bill should be passed. After the speech, there is a mandatory 2-minute questioning period as well as any time left of the speaker's 3-minute speech. The Presiding Officer will decide who will ask the questions.
6. After this speech, the Presiding Officer will choose a student to speak against the bill. After this 3-minute speech, there is a mandatory 1-minute questioning period as well as any time left of the speaker's 3-minute speech.
7. After the first round of speeches, the Presiding Officer will choose speakers on alternate sides of the bills. These speeches are a maximum of 3 minutes. If there is any time left of the 3 minutes, the speaker will be asked questions. The speeches will go back and forth until the chamber votes to call the question (i.e. vote in the bill).
8. After the first bill, the chamber will move on to the second bill and continue until either all the bills are disposed of or until time runs out.
9. This is primarily a debate. Thus speakers should refer to previous speakers and refute what they have said. While the first speaker for each bill may have a prewritten speech, the speeches following should NOT be prewritten, as they will not clash with the speeches that have gone before them.
10. This is also a congress. Thus, students should follow correct parliamentary procedure.
11. Judges should rarely need to speak. The Presiding Officer should run the chamber. If there is a problem, one judge should let the Presiding Officer know.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DOES NOT REFER TO THE CFL NATIONAL ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT. THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE TOURNAMENT.

12. At the end of the rounds, please make a holistic decision. Which student best used a combination of speeches, questions, and procedure to make the best impression? Rank that student 1st. Rank the second best student 2nd, and so on. You will be told how many students to rank. **DO NOT RANK ANYONE FROM YOUR OWN SCHOOL.** If, in your opinion, you cannot rank the desired number, then only give ranks to as many students as you feel are worth a rank. Please also give the students a percentage. The highest percentage you may give is 100%, the lowest 75%.

13. Please be sure to consider the Presiding Officer in your rankings. Unlike speakers, the Presiding Officer's job is more low-key. If the Presiding Officer does a good job, you will not notice her. Please be sure to remember how well the Presiding Officer kept order in the chamber. The job of the Presiding Officer is to run the chamber. The Presiding Officer should be fair and should allow all students maximum opportunity to speak. Please judge the Presiding Officer on these criteria.