

ARTICLE XI: The State Tournament -- Debate Rules

Section 1. Resolutions

A. Policy Debate.

1. The policy debate resolution shall be the national high school debate resolution.

B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. The NFL Lincoln-Douglas topic for September-October shall be used for the Fall California topic; the National Forensic League Lincoln-Douglas resolution for March/April shall be used as the second California Lincoln-Douglas resolution from February 1.

C. Parliamentary Debate

1. Resolutions are different for each round of debate and are issued twenty minutes in advance of the round.

D. Public Forum Debate

1. Resolutions will correspond to those published every month by the NFL.

E. Responsibility:

1. Each team or individual in Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall be prepared to uphold both sides of the debate resolution.

Section 2. Policy Debate

- A. Debate teams consist of two members only. The two members of a team who qualify to the State Tournament from a league state qualification tournament must debate as a team in the State Tournament

B. Length and order of speeches

1st Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross Examination of 1st Affirmative	3 minutes
1st Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross Examination of 1st Negative	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross Examination of 2nd Affirmative	3 minutes
2nd Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross Examination of 2nd Negative	3 minutes
1st Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes

- C. No more than eight minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each team during the debate.

- D. Both members of a debate team must participate as a questioner and respondent during cross-examination, but only one member of each team may do so within any given cross-examination period. Oral prompting by a participant of either the questioner or the respondent should be discouraged, and may be considered by the judge as a factor in deciding the debate.
- E. Oral prompting by the speaker's colleague while the speaker has the floor in debate should be discouraged, and may be considered by the judge as a factor in deciding the debate.
- F. Preparation Time
1. Each team may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
 2. Speakers may not use prep time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches. A speaker's time begins when he/she begins to speak.
 3. No team may forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time. Preparation time begins for a team as soon as the previous speaker has finished with a speech or cross-examination.
- G. Cross-Examination.
1. The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed his/her constructive speech and must be answered by that speaker alone.
 2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments offered by the opposition.
 3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
 4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Any form of time-wasting is considered unethical.
 5. Cross-examination time may not be yielded for the purpose of gaining additional preparation time.
- H. Validity of Evidence
1. Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged during each round by the opponent, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced to include the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Either no internal ellipsis (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card, or ellipses may be shown on cards, if the original source or a Xerox copy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters or telegrams shall not be admissible as evidence. ***Evidence acquired from the use of the Internet during the round is not valid.***
 2. Evidence challenges
 - a. The burden of proof rests with the team or individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.

- b. The team challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
 - c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament tabulation room. Decision will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.
 - d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the challenging individual.
 - e. The challenging team must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of either original copies or photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of Books in Print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources. ***Evidence provided to a judge in digital format (e.g., CD, USB drive, flash drive) prior to the beginning of the round will be the most efficient way to demonstrate that questioned evidence was not acquired during the round via the Internet. Competitors are strongly encouraged to follow this practice.***
 - f. The tournament committee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
 - g. Teams utilizing “handbook” evidence rarely have available the facilities to check all sources found in those handbooks. Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
 - h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the team a win and disqualifying from the tournament the team found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
 - i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
 - j. The tournament committee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentation. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.
- I. Evidence Exchange/Note-Taking
- 1. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from teams except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team during the round. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.

2. Teams or individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross-examination or preparation only and must return the requested evidence prior to their opponent’s next speech if requested.

J. Evidence challenges

1. ***Debaters shall not be allowed to utilize the Internet during rounds; Internet devices must be disabled.***

Section 3: Lincoln-Douglas

A. Length and order of speeches for Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-examination	3 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

B. Preparation Time

1. ***No more than three (3) minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each debater during the debate.***
2. Each individual may allocate this time as s/he sees fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for his/her side.
3. Speakers may not use prep time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches. A speaker’s time begins when she/he begins to speak.
 - a. No individual may forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time. Preparation time begins for an individual as soon as the previous speaker has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

C. Cross Examination

1. The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed his/her constructive speech and must be answered by that speaker alone.
2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments offered by the opposition.
3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Any form of time-wasting is considered unethical.
5. Cross-examination time may not be yielded for the purpose of gaining additional preparation time.

D. Validity of evidence

1. Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged by the opponent during any round, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced including the name of the author, qualifications, complete source

title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Either no internal ellipsis (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card, or ellipses must be shown on cards, if the original source or a photocopy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters or telegrams shall not be admissible as evidence.

2. Evidence challenges

- a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.
- b. The individual challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
- c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament tabulation room. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.
- d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the individual who initiated the challenge.
- e. The challenging individual must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of either original copies of photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of books in print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources.
- f. The tournament committee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
- g. Individuals utilizing "handbook" evidence rarely have available the facilities to check all sources found in those handbooks. Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
- h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the challenging individual a win and disqualifying from the tournament the individual found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
- i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was found not to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
- j. The tournament committee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of

the conclusion of the presentations. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.

E. Evidence exchange/note-taking.

1. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from individuals except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team during the round. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.
2. Individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross-examination only and must return the requested evidence before the next speech.
3. Debaters shall not utilize computers for any reason during the debate round

Section 4. Parliamentary Debate

A. Topic approach: A different topic is used for each round of debate.

- Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team’s value.
- Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
- Fact: Both teams try to prove under what circumstances the topic would be called a valid fact.

B. Length and order of speeches

1st Proposition	7 minutes
1st Opposition	7 minutes
2nd Proposition	7 minutes
2nd Opposition	7 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	5 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal	5 minutes

C. Preparation Time:

During preparation time, Parli teams will report to designated Prep areas and remain there until dismissed to go to their rounds. At the end of 20 minutes of preparation time, the First Proposition speech begins.

1. A topic is presented to both teams prior to the start of the round. The teams have 20 minutes of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to prepare for each debate.
2. Students may consult ***their partner***, dictionaries, reference materials, and prepared notes during the preparation period.
3. The next speaker must get up to speak within 20 seconds of the preceding speech.
4. All speaking time must be timed, including “thank you’s” and “roadmaps.”

D. Evidence:

The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage an extemporaneous or impromptu argumentation. Reference to “outside materials” should be limited; instead, students should rely on general knowledge, common sense, and

application of logic and analysis. Nevertheless, the use of “outside materials” is allowed within the following parameters:

1. No prepared materials may be brought into the debate round for the debater’s use.
2. Debaters are not permitted to read published material in the speeches of the debate to support their argument claims.
3. During the debate, students may consult notes prepared during the preparation period.
4. Debaters may take and use notes during the debate.

E. Oral Prompting/Heckling:

Oral prompting by the speaker’s colleague while the speaker has the floor in the debate should be discouraged, and may be considered by the judge as a factor in deciding the debate. Heckling is not allowed.

F. Constructive/Rebuttal Speeches:

1. All arguments a team intends to present during the debate may be presented in the team’s first two speeches.
2. Rebuttals are a team’s formal response to opponent arguments or an extension of their own arguments.
3. No new arguments may be introduced in rebuttals. However, new analyses of prior arguments are allowed in rebuttals.
4. Rebuttals must be given the first speaker for each side.

G. Points of Information:

These are common practice in parliamentary debating. To make a point of information, a member of the opposing team rises for recognition by the speaker. The speaker then has the discretion to accept or refuse the point. If the point is accepted, the opposing team member directs a statement or question to the speaker. The speaker is technically yielding time from his/her own speech for the point of information and the time for the point is deducted from the speaker holding the floor.

1. Points of Information are allowed in every speech in the debate.
2. Points of Information must be concise statements or questions lasting no more than fifteen seconds.
3. Debaters may or may not take points of information at their discretion. The speaker accepts a single point; the opposing speaker is not allowed to make following questions or arguments unless again recognized by the speaker holding the floor.
4. The opening and closing minute of each speech are ‘protected,’ i.e., no Points of Information are allowed. Points may be made after the first minute and before the last minute of each speech. The judge should tap the desktop to indicate that one minute has elapsed and points of information may commence. The judge should then tap the desktop when one minute remains in each speech to indicate that no more points may be attempted.
5. No other parliamentary points are permitted.

Section 5. Public Forum Debate

A. Length and order of speeches.

1st Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
1st Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between First Speakers	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
2nd Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between Second Speakers	3 minutes
Summary (First Affirmative Speaker)	2 minutes
Summary (First Negative Speaker)	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire (All speakers)	3 minutes
Final Focus (Second Affirmative Speaker)	1 minute
Final Focus (Second Negative Speaker)	1 minute

B. Preparation Time:

Each team will have two minutes of preparation time.

1. No more than two minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed to each side during the debate.
2. Each team may allocate this time as it sees fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
3. Prep time ends and speaking time begins when the debater begins speaking.
4. No prep time may be taken between speeches and crossfire.

C. Evidence:

Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged during each round by the opponent, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced to include the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Either no internal ellipsis (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card, or ellipses may be shown on cards, if the original source or a photocopy is present. The evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters or email shall not be admissible as evidence.

1. Evidence challenges

- a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.
- b. The individual challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
- c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament judge room. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by

tournament officials. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.

- d. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.

2. Evidence exchange/note-taking

- a. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from either debater except when the evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.
- b. Each side may request evidence from the opponent during crossfires only and must return the requested evidence before the next speech.

D. Speeches in the Debate:

Each team will have two minutes of preparation time.

1. Constructive Speeches: All arguments a team intends to present during the debate may be presented in each team's first two speeches.
2. Summary: The team's formal response to opponent's arguments from constructive speeches or an extension of their own.
3. Final Focus: The synthesis of a team's argument. No new arguments may be introduced. However, new analyses of prior arguments are allowed.
- 4. *The affirmative speaker must speak first in the debate.***

E. Crossfire:

1. In crossfire, the team who finished speaking receives the first question.
2. In the first two crossfires, only the speakers indicated above may participate. Both debaters may ask and answer questions.
3. Grand Crossfire: All four debaters may participate. All may ask and answer questions.

F. Prohibition of computer use:

1. Debaters shall not utilize computers for any reason during the debate round.