Congress Rules & Topic

We will not use priority cards. The presiding officer (PO) position will be held by a person who is of high school age or older. The tournament will try to provide POs for every round.

Students are allowed to use manuscripts to present their arguments. Students are encouraged to take notes during the round and use their notes while speaking.

Every student will be given the opportunity to speak before a competitor is given a chance to speak twice.

Congress sessions are 60 minutes (max). At the end of 60 minutes, a vote will be taken to see whether the resolution passes or not. Competitors may motion to have a vote taken prior to the 60 minute time limit.

Speeches will be 3 minutes with 1 minute allowed for cross examination.

Topics must be debated in the round they are assigned. Motions cannot be made to debate a different topic.

Seating charts will not be used for this tournament. Please instruct each competitor to state their names before they speak.

For all five rounds of Congress, students will debate initiatives that can be voted on in the November election. Students will role play during each round as if they will be making the decision to actually enact the following current California ballot initiatives.

Round 1 - Resolved: California should pass the Three States Initiative

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Three_States_Initiative_(2018)

Round 2 - Resolved: California should pass the Voter Approval for Gas and Vehicle Taxes Initiative

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Voter_Approval_for_Gas_and_Vehicle_Taxes_Initiative_(2018)

Round 3 - Resolved: California should pass the Local Rent Control Initiative

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Local_Rent_Control_Initiative_(2018)

Round 4 – California should pass Proposition 13 Tax Transfer Initiative

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_13_Tax_Transfer_Initiative_(2018)

Round 5 – California should abolish daylight savings time