

**RIDGE DEBATES  
CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE INFORMATION  
2016**

**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, December 9, 2016**

Preliminary Session I: 4:00-6:30pm

Meeting for Finals Overview & Topic Area announcement: 7:30pm.

Debaters will have the rest of Friday night for research on the announced topic area.

**Saturday, December 10, 2016**

Preliminary Session II: 8:30-11:00

Finalist Announcement: 11:45am

Finals – Session I: 12:00pm-2:30pm

Finals – Session II: 3:15-4:45pm

Awards - 5:00pm (in chamber)

**PRELIMINARY COMPETITION FORMAT:**

**Preliminary Bills can be accessed at**

[http://tabroom-files.s3-website-us-east-](http://tabroom-files.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/tourns/5762/postings/8957/RidgeDebatesLegislation.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/tourns/5762/postings/8957/RidgeDebatesLegislation.pdf](http://tabroom-files.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/tourns/5762/postings/8957/RidgeDebatesLegislation.pdf)

Competition will follow NSDA rules on parliamentary procedure, presiding officer elections and practices, voting, and decorum. As such, all chambers will be closed chambers. All debaters should be addressed as “Senator.” There will be two preliminary chambers. Each session will be 2 ½ hours in length. Each chamber is limited to debating two bills per session. As such, students are strongly encouraged to give more than one speech per legislation, and judges will be instructed to view this as normal and acceptable. Students are also highly encouraged to be prepared on both sides of the legislation. **Parliamentarians will instruct Presiding Officers to call the Previous Question after two cycles of one-sided debate.** If necessary, the tournament reserves the right to add legislation or scenarios as needed to complete five hours of congressional debate time.

Students will be allowed to connect to the Internet in all rounds. One cautionary note: the Internet may be very slow, and as such it would not be wise to wait to do research during the round. Access to the Internet is intended to facilitate refutation and responses to the arguments of other speakers. Please contact Andrew Monagle at [amonagle@bernardsboe.com](mailto:amonagle@bernardsboe.com) if you will not be able to access a laptop computer for this tournament, and we will do our best to provide one in order to ensure equal access to technology.

**Tabulation:**

We will be using a judge credit system to tabulate. At the end of each round, the judge will rank the top eight students in the round. The parliamentarian will rank the students at the end of the

second session only, and his/her rank will count as a tiebreaker. **In addition, the Parliamentarian will award a 'quality point' score between the range of '+3 thru -3.'** This score will be factored into the final cumulative judge credit score which will determine those students advancing to the final round. The quality point score allows the Parliamentarian to deliver a holistic reward to those students who demonstrate behaviors promoting an inclusive and respectful environment that upholds the dignity and integrity of the Congressional Debate event, including the participants and officials involved. Such behaviors may include (but are not limited to),

- Considering and offering motions that respect the time and intent to debate.
- Presenting speeches that foster and promote the grounds of debate, with specific reference to speeches in early cycles of debate, including authorship/sponsorship speeches.
- Presenting refutation speeches and arguments that recognize and advance the affirmative or negative advocacy as a *collective* act. Parliamentarians will flow the round and expect debaters to address critical issues or burdens raised by the opposition.
- Offering/Debating amendments seeking to improve the legislation to further debate.
- Exhibiting character traits that evoke inclusivity, civility and decorum within the chamber.
- Incorporating specific arguments that extend throughout the round, especially those which lead to a prevailing decision.
- Standing for/Asking purposeful and thought-provoking questions.
- Running for/Serving as a Presiding Officer.
- Demonstrating respect and inclusivity for all members, within the chamber, during any pre- and post-round activity and recesses.

**While students may not need to fulfill all these qualities for points, students who act in manners adverse or contradictory to the spirit of these qualities risk penalties in their quality point scores.**

## **ADVANCEMENT AND FINAL SESSION FORMAT:**

### **PART I:**

A total of 6 students will advance from each of the two prelims chambers. Students will be divided into two separate teams (Team A and Team B) who will have fifty-minutes to work collaboratively, outside the presence of judges, to compose a piece of legislation on the assigned topic which will be announced after dinner on Friday evening. Legislation may take any form that addresses the topic in an appropriate manner for congressional debate (bill, resolution, constitutional amendment).

Students will be monitored by Parliamentarians during this drafting period for qualities of effective group discussion, including productive discourse, relevant and thought-provoking questioning, participation in drafting, and positive interaction with the team. These observations may factor into the Parliamentarians' quality point scores at the end of the entire final round. After the fifty minute time period, each team will print and present its piece of legislation in the following debate format:

This entire 'legislation' session will be conducted by the two Parliamentarians and/or outside Presiding Officer. Each member of the team will assume one of the six speaking positions prior to start of this first part of the final session.

Speaker 1 from Team A (A1) presents Team A's authorship overview-	3 minutes.
PO/Parliamentarian conducts questioning by Team B	2 minutes
Speaker 1 from Team B (B1) presents Team B's authorship overview-	3 minutes
PO/Parliamentarian conducts questioning by Team A	2 minutes

5 minute preparation period for teams to review legislation

Speaker A2 presents constructive speech	3 minutes
Speaker B2 presents constructive speech	3 minutes
Crossfire period between A2 and B2	2 minutes

Speaker A3 presents rebuttal speech	3 minutes
Speaker B3 presents rebuttal speech	3 minutes
Crossfire period between A3 and B3	2 minutes

Fifteen minute preparation period to draft amendments to opposing side's legislation.

Speaker A4 presents and explains amendment to Team B legislation	3 minutes
PO/Parliamentarian conducts questioning by Team B	2 minutes
Speaker B4 presents and explains amendment to Team A legislation	3 minutes
Parliamentarian conducts questioning by Team A	2 minutes

Twenty minute review of amendment and revision of legislation

Speaker A5 presents final version of legislation explaining rationale for accepting, modifying, or rejecting amendments	3 minutes
Speaker B5 presents final version of legislation explaining rationale for accepting, modifying, or rejecting amendments.	3 minutes

2 minute preparation period

Speaker A6 crystallizes rationale to accept Team A's legislation.	3 minutes
Speaker B6 crystallizes rationale to accept Team B's legislation	3 minutes.

**The Judges will choose the final piece of legislation which will be debated during the 2nd part of finals, which will offer a traditional cycle of congressional debate with an elected presiding officer.** Part II will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. Judges will rank the entire chamber at the end of session II. Their ranks will incorporate their observations and evaluations from both sessions. The two parliamentarians, together, will agree to a quality point score (+3 thru -3) which will be factored into the composite judge scores to determine the top six speakers for the entire final congress. These quality point scores will incorporate the student's contribution and behavior throughout Part I and II of the final session, including the drafting, amendment, and preparation segments.