



Climb the Mountain

Speech and Debate Foundation

Presiding Officer Scripts Version 1.1

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Be Ready to Debate!

BEFORE EACH AND EVERY DEBATE:

1. Recency Chart
2. A system for time signals- audio for in person, visual for online
3. Script printed
4. Paper and Pens
5. Legislative Packet
6. Stopwatch

Recency Chart

See the table document to the right:

Recency Table & Fractions of Voting

1							
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# Votes Cast	Majority	Two-Thirds	One-Third
6	4	4	2
7	4	5	3
8	5	6	3
9	5	6	3
10	6	7	4
11	6	8	4
12	7	8	4
13	7	9	5
14	8	10	5
15	8	10	5

# Votes Cast	Majority	Two-Thirds	One-Third
16	9	11	6
17	9	12	6
18	10	12	6
19	10	13	7
20	11	14	7
21	11	14	7
22	12	15	8
23	12	16	8
24	13	16	8
25	13	17	9

Congress Speech Order and Times

The first cycle of debate (1 pro speech followed by one con), cycles can be interrupted, as in, consecutive pro/neg speeches are allowed. This order resets for each piece of legislation.

3 min. 1st Pro Speech – Introduce the topic and the changes it will make

2 min. Questioning period

3 min. 1st Con— Speech – Attack the legislation and refute the Pro

2 min. Questioning period

After this point, speeches may alternate from pro to con, or continue on one side, (ex. Con, Con, Con.) Additionally all speeches hereafter will have only one minute for questions.

3 min. Pro/Con Speech

1 min. Questioning Period

3 min. Pro/Con Speech

1 min. Questioning Period

Housekeeping

SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)

I thank the chamber for electing me as your presiding officer. I am Senator _____.

Before we begin debate/establish our docket, my time signals will be _____.

To rise for motions, speeches or questions the chair would prefer that Senators use the raise hand function/Physical Placards.

(If the chair has any other preferences this is where you should say it.)

Beginning debate and first speech on a given topic

As you begin debate remember, you will follow the docket established prior to your election as Presiding Officer

We will begin debate on Docket _____, A bill/resolution to

Remember that each piece of legislation will begin debate with a pro speech. This is called an authorship or sponsorship speech (for the first aff speech only). You call first for authorship and if no one rises then you call for sponsorships.

All those with speeches in authorship please rise.

(Depending on the responding Senators the PO will respond differently)

(A. One person rises, this is the most common outcome when authorships are available)

Senator _____, you have the floor.

(B. Multiple people rise. You go based on Recency, if none is set then you choose who to call.)

(C. No one rises)

Seeing none, all those with speeches in sponsorship please rise.

Remember to give time signals throughout the speech.

After the speech ↓

Thank you, Senator, for that speech of _____ Minutes and _____ Seconds. We now move to a two-minute questioning period. All those with speeches please rise.

Call speakers in the order of precedence, if none exists then it is up to the PO to choose.

Senator _____

Each questioner has 30 seconds to ask as many questions as they like.

If questioners only use (for example) 10 seconds, it will still count as a question. If there are more than 15 seconds left then you may call another questioner if more are standing.

First negation speech

Remember that the 2nd speech per topic must be a negation speech.

Seeing as that was a speech in Authorship/Sponsorship, we will now move to a speech in negation, all those with speeches please rise. Senator _____ you have the floor.

Thank you, Senator, for that speech of _____ Minutes and _____ Seconds. We now move to a two-minute questioning period. All those with questions please rise.

All following speeches

SETUP YOUR FLOWSHEET AND PREFLOW YOUR CASE CONTENTION(S)

Seeing as that was a speech in _____, we will now move to a speech in _____, all those with speeches please rise. Senator _____ you have the floor.

Thank you, Senator, for that speech of _____ Minutes and _____ Seconds. We now move to a two-minute questioning period. All those with questions please rise.

Voting

You vote on several things in a round including but not limited to, moving to Previous Question, Passing or Failing legislation, tabling legislation, taking from the table, to adjourn, and to recess.

(a senator calls) "Motion"

**State that motion
"motion to _____"**

"Second"

**It has been moved and seconded, all those in favor of _____
please raise your placard/hand. All those opposed please raise your
hand/placard. In a vote of _____ to _____ this motion Passes/fails.**