

BEST LEGISLATOR/SPEAKER

- Does the speech show originality of thought or merely rehash old points?
- Does the speech exhibit delivery skills such as seriousness, clarity, poise, etc.?
- Does the speech develop debate?
- Does the speaker provide evidence for the speech?
- Is the speaker reading or actually giving the speech?
- Is the speaker active throughout the session (i.e. he/she doesn't simply give a speech and sit down but also asks questions and raises motions)?
- Is decorum followed until the end of the session? (Make sure there is no whispering/lack of respect and seriousness is always maintained).
- Is the speaker conscious of the time of the speech? (Anything over 3 min and 15 sec is too long, and speeches less than 1 min 30 sec tend to be too short).
- **REMEMBER:**. As the debate progresses, and arguments are presented, the speeches should contain more and more refutation. For refutation, speakers should refer to other speakers by name.

BEST P.O.

- Does the P.O. have knowledge of parliamentary procedure?
- Does the P.O. explain his/her procedures at the beginning of the session?
- Does the P.O. maintain control of the chamber?
- Is the P.O. fair in his rulings/calling on people or is the P.O. playing parliamentary games?
- Is the P.O. firm? (**REMEMBER:** At anytime in debate, the P.O. can deny motions such as motion to suspend rules to extend questioning in order to have more speeches).
- Is the P.O. quick and efficient and gets in a lot of speeches?

POINTERS FOR PARIAMENTARIAN

Voting Procedures

- Half of chamber plus one member needed to pass a regular bill or resolution.
- Two thirds of the chamber needed to pass a constitutional amendment.
- All legislators who are missing from voting shall be counted as abstaining.
- P.O. may use voice voting when taking a vote for everything except when voting for bills.

What the P.O. can and cannot do.

- Make sure the P.O. explains his/her procedures at the beginning of the session.
- Make sure the P.O. is not playing any parliamentary games (being biased toward the method of selecting speakers).
- Make sure the P.O. maintains decorum and seriousness **THROUGHOUT** the session, even in the last ten minutes.
- Rules can only be suspended once when extending the questioning period.
- When extending questioning, try to discourage odd periods of time such as 5 sec or 15 sec. Increments of 30 sec are widely accepted around the circuit.
- The P.O. should give an adequate grace period after each speech. The P.O. can rule any motions dilatory when there are 15 minutes or less to get in as many speeches as possible.
- The P.O. can also rule motions dilatory when a motion has been defeated over and over.

POINTERS FOR CONGRESS JUDGES

Thank you for judging our Congress session today! The session will last approximately 2 – 2 ½ hours. You have been given a pack of ballots to utilize during the session. Please fill out a new ballot for each speech given by a student. Please provide constructive comments on the speaker's content, evidence, refutation, and delivery. You will also receive a Presiding Officer (P.O.) ballot to complete at the end of the session. Please rate the skills of the P.O. and comment accordingly.

After the session, use the attached sheet to rank the top eight legislators of the session. Please use the following guidelines below as you select the top speakers:

Ranking Speakers

- Rank speakers according to their participation in addition to their speeches. It is crucial to remember that speeches are not everything in Student Congress. If a student gives two superb speeches but says nothing through the rest of the session, he/she should not be ranked high. On the other hand, if a student gives one superb speech but contributes to the chamber with questions and/or motions, that student should be ranked high.
- Note how many times students make motions, successful or not. Did the student run for Presiding Officer? How many questions did the student ask during the session?
- When grading a speech, make sure the speaker is not reading off the paper. When arguments have already been said, speakers shouldn't be restating them. Congress should be a fully prepared event. In this league, the bills are given out ahead of time but students should be able to give the speech without dependence on the paper. Also, make sure there is ample evidence in the speech.

Ranking P.O.

- Remember that you can rank a P.O. as high as any speaker if you believe that P.O. did a good job. If you believe the P.O. maintained control of the chamber and ran things smoothly, you should rank the P.O. high. However, if the P.O. failed to keep control and performed terribly, you may choose not to rank him/her at all. Either way, make sure, you do not ignore the P.O. for his/her services. Remember, taking the P.O. position is not any easier than being a speaker. The judge should never punish the P.O.
- Some things to look out for in a good P.O.
 - Maintains the seriousness in a chamber and not afraid to strike down any speakers due to lack of decorum.
 - Always fair in procedures.
 - Quick and efficient. Get an average of speeches per hour if you can. 13-14 speeches per hour is excellent but 10 to 11 speeches per hour is less stellar. The amount of motions and questions can limit the number of speeches. Also, general participation from the chamber can also limit the number of speeches. Remember, if the chamber is eager to speak, there should be no reason to not have 12 speeches per hour.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION DURING THE SESSION...

LEGISLATOR/SPEAKER	PRESIDING OFFICER.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the speech show originality of thought or merely rehash old points?• Does the speech exhibit delivery skills such as seriousness, clarity, poise, etc.?• Does the speech develop debate?• Does the speaker provide evidence?• Is the speaker reading or actually giving the speech?• Is the speaker active throughout the session (i.e. he/she doesn't simply give a speech and sit down but also asks questions and raises motions)?• Is decorum followed until the end of the session? (Make sure there is no whispering/lack of respect and seriousness is always maintained).• Is the speaker conscious of the time of the speech? (Anything over 3 min and 15 sec is too long, and speeches less than 1 min 30 sec tend to be too short).• REMEMBER: As the debate progresses, and arguments are presented, the speeches should contain more and more refutation. For refutation, speakers should refer to other speakers by name.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the P.O. have knowledge of parliamentary procedure?• Does the P.O. explain his/her procedures at the beginning of the session?• Does the P.O. maintain control of the chamber?• Is the P.O. fair in his rulings/calling on people or is the P.O. playing parliamentary games?• Is the P.O. firm? (REMEMBER: At anytime in debate, the P.O. can deny motions such as motion to suspend rules to extend questioning in order to have more speeches).• Is the P.O. quick and efficient and gets in a lot of speeches?

