

CHSSA BY-LAWS: PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE RULES

(slightly excerpted: full text may be read at www.cahssa.org)

Revised: 8/09

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)	2 minute
Final Focus (Second Negative Speaker)	2 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. 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.