

RHETORIC

Logos

- Turning your opponent’s argument against them. Establish through evidence and logic

Pathos

- Establish through rhetoric and persuasion

Ethos

- Convinced through credibility/reputation

MOTIONS

How To Make A Motion

Delegate: Honorable Chair

Chair: For what reason does the delegate rise?

Delegate: I rise to make a motion.

Chair: State the nature of your motion.

Delegate: Concerning fill in the blank

Examples of Motions

- Extend debate for NDTQs
- Ban/Implement use of the precedence chart
- Extend/Limit number of amendments
- Switch chair/clerk teams
- Shuffle the amendments
- Adjourn committee
- Call for a recess

POINTS

Point of Inquiry

- Questions about procedure or clarity

Examples

- How long is the pro/con debate period?

Point of Order

- Another delegate breaks procedure

Examples

- The delegate did not state their purpose to rise.

Point of Inquiry

- Statement regarding personal means

Examples

- Can the AC in the room be turned up?



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION

A message from the Creator

Delegates,

“The foundation of every state is the education of its youth” - The Library of Congress

It is so incredibly important for the youth to be engaged in civic activism and be political aware in this day and age. State Affairs Forum is the perfect platform for the exchange of ideas in an environment that is built on collaboration, teamwork, and change-making. State Affairs Forum has been my home for the longest time, and I hope that this guide helps you make SAF your home too.

Best of luck,

Created by: Lindsey Khuu (YG Alumni)

Edited by: YMCA Texas YG



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

STATE AFFAIRS FORUM TIPS & TRICKS

A GUIDE TO THE PODIUM

NON-DEBATABLE TECHNICAL QUESTIONING AND ANSWERING PERIOD

2 minutes (Time shared by committee)

Delegates will have the opportunity to ask the proposal author any questions that they may have about the proposal. However they are limited with asking only Non-Debatable Technical Questions (NDTQ). Any motions to extend the NDTQ Period can be made after time has elapsed.

What is a NDTQ?

NDTQs are questions that require a factual answer and CANNOT be debated. Think of it as a question that you can ask Google, to which it will give you a consistent answer.

Questions that cannot be asked are those that ask the proposal author for their opinion or those that ask about funding for the proposal. In SAF, delegates are debating PROPOSALS, not bills. It is not within our jurisdiction to detail where funding will be allocated from because it is not legislation.

How To Ask A Question

Delegate: Honorable Chair

Chair: For what reason does the delegate rise?

Delegate: Name, Delegation. I rise to ask a question/a series of questions to the proposal author.

PRO/CON DEBATE PERIOD

1 minute per speaker, 2 rounds (pro/con/pro/con)

Delegates will speak in proponent and opposition of the proposal. Pro/Con speakers also have the chance to question the proposal author with questions that do not have to be NDTQs. Delegates on the floor have the ability to question the Pro/Con speakers as well. Any motions to extend the Pro/Con Debate period can be made before the last con speaker.

Pro Debate Tips

- Every proposal is written with good intent in mind. What is that good intent? Prove it.
- What kind of impact will this proposal make? How will it benefit others?

Con Debate Tips

Common Weaknesses

- Implementation: How will the author ensure that people follow the proposal?
- Feasibility: How realistic is the proposal? Can it even be implemented?
- Effectiveness: Will this proposal even solve the problem? Is there a better way to approach this problem?

How To Ask A Question

Delegate: Honorable Chair

Chair: For what reason does the delegate rise?

Delegate: Name, Delegation. I rise to ask a question/a series of questions to the proposal author/current speaker.

AMENDMENT PERIOD

3 amendments, Opening Statements 1 minute, Proposal Authors response 30 seconds

Amendments are a change or addition designed to improve the proposal. Amendments are due before the last con speaker during the Pro/Con Debate Period. An unlimited number of amendments that are allowed to be turned in, however only 3 will be presented unless otherwise motioned. Additionally, amendments will be presented in the order that they are received unless they are motioned to be shuffled.

If the proposal author accepts the amendment, then the amendment is added into the proposal. If the proposal author does not accept the amendment, then the committee will vote upon its passage. When an amendment is passed, it will stay and move with the proposal as a friendly amendment in higher rounds.

How to Write An Amendment

- Do NOT write grammar amendments
- Include the line number where you want your amendment to be added
- Write word-for-word what you want the proposal to say on the amendment slip
- Opening Statements: How will your amendment improve the proposal?