

# PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE BALLOT

Round # \_\_\_\_\_

Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

A coin toss determines side and speaking order. Then record names and codes and pro or con.

Code \_\_\_\_\_ Pro/Con  
(Team A - see event description)

Code \_\_\_\_\_ Pro/Con  
(Team B - see event description)

Speaker 1 Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker 3 Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker 2 Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker 4 Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 1 SPEAKER 3


**Analysis:** Did the debater explain and argue the most important issue(s) inherent in the resolution?

**Evidence:** Did the debater support arguments with credible facts and opinions and clearly cite sources?

**Ethics:** Did the students conduct themselves civilly and professionally showing respect to all participants during the debate?

**Crossfire:** Were questions relevant, and brief? Was the crossfire conducted in a civil manner? Were claims rational and accurate?

**Refutation:** Did the debater effectively counter the arguments of the opponents and substantially advance his or her own claims?

**Delivery:** Did each debater speak in an organized and communicative style? Was the use of notes kept to a minimum and reading avoided?

## 2 SPEAKER 4


Rate each speaker in each category:

Total \_\_\_\_\_ A/4 = Superior    B/3 = Excellent    C/2 = Good D/1 = Deficient    Total \_\_\_\_\_

The TEAM of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ won this debate on the PRO / CON side.

The argument(s) that persuaded me to vote for this team were:

A compliment or a suggestion for improvement for each debater:

Speaker 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Judge

1st Speaker 4 min. ----> 2nd Speaker 4 min. ----> Crossfire 1st and 2nd Speakers 3 min. ---->  
 3rd Speaker 4 min. ----> 4th Speaker 4 min. ----> Crossfire 3rd and 4th Speakers 3 min. ---->  
 Summary 1st Speaker 2 min. ----> Summary 2nd Speaker 2 min. ----> Grand Crossfire All Speakers 3 min. ----> Final  
 Focus 3rd Speaker 2 min. ----> Final Focus 4th Speaker 2 min.                      Prep Time 2 min. per team

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of Public Forum Debate is to argue contemporary issues in a forum that is accessible to a general audience. The speaking style should be persuasive and extemporaneous. Debaters should be using some "evidence" (e.g. research) to support their points during the debate. In addition, teams will have to also refute the points of the other team in the debate. As in all debate, both teams are trying to convince a neutral judge that they have better reasons for their positions. Debaters should be readily conversant in details of the topic and demonstrate extensive knowledge and understanding of the issues. Debaters may choose to focus on practical issues, philosophical issues or a combination. However, both teams are responsible for directly responding to the arguments made by their opponents.

**RULES:**

- A. Public Forum debates a new topic each month. Those topics are the same as the NFL topics **until** the Regional and State tournaments. Regionals and State topics are selected by a call for resolutions and by a vote of the coaches. CHSAA sends this call to all coaches. All topics are posted at [www.chsaa.org](http://www.chsaa.org) (click on sports/activities, activities, speech, and then topics). Topics are always released exactly one month in advance. It is very important to note that invitational tournaments are free to choose their own topics, so always read the invitations carefully to be certain competitors arrive at the meet having prepared for the proper topic.
- B. The resolution will provide each team of two the opportunity to argue contemporary issues in a forum that is accessible to a general audience.
- C. Each team will try to convince a neutral judge that they have better reasons for their positions.
- D. Some evidence should be used to support their points during the debate.
- E. Debaters may choose to focus on practical issues, philosophical issues or a combination.
- F. In all rounds of Public Forum Debate, debaters must, at a minimum orally deliver the title of the source and the author's name. Please see the debate evidence rules for further information and clarification.
- G. Both teams are responsible for directly responding to arguments made by their opponents.
- H. Prior to the round in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team winning the flip may choose one of two options EITHER:
  - a. The SIDE of the topic to defend (pro or con) OR
  - b. The SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin or end the debate).
  - c. Once the coin toss winners select their favored option, the other team makes a choice within the remaining option and the debate begins.
- I. The format for the debate is as follows:
 

Constructive speeches:  
     Team A Speaker 1- 4 minutes  
     Team B Speaker 1- 4 minutes

Crossfire A1 & B1- 3 minutes  
     Team A Speaker 2- 4 minutes  
     Team B Speaker 2- 4 minutes

Crossfire A2 & B2- 3 minutes

Summary speeches: Includes arguments the debaters feel their team is winning and refuting arguments he/she feels they are losing.  
     Team A Speaker 1- 2 min.  
     Team B Speaker 1- 2 min.  
     Grand Crossfire (all speakers)- 3 min

Final focus speeches: A persuasive final restatement of why a team won the debate  
     Team A Speaker 2- 2 min.  
     Team B Speaker 2- 2 min.  
     Prep Time: 2 min. per team

In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." The first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After the first question either debater may question and/or answer at will. In grand crossfire the first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech.
- J. Visual aids are allowed.
- K. Electronic retrieval devices are allowed in rounds of competition where scripts and files are permitted. No one will be allowed to video or photograph or create audio recordings of students in rounds of competition. No student shall send or receive information during a round, nor shall a host school provide plug ins or internet access. Please see the rules regarding laptop usage for further information and clarification.

**PROCEDURES:**

1. Schedules and room assignments are furnished the students. Debaters are required to follow the assigned schedule.
2. Critics will rate debaters by selecting the appropriate level of achievement as listed on the ballot (A-D or 4-1 scale) and give constructive written feedback to the debaters.
3. Completed ballots should be turned in at meet headquarters promptly. After the tournament, each ballot is given to the participant via his or her coach.
4. In all debate events, the winning team must receive more speaker points than the losing team. Speaker ranks and points must correspond. No ties are allowed.