

Congress A Guide

Jana M. Riggins, Editor
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Important Dates for Congress

2017-2018

Intent to Participate from Schools submitted online (Late submission requires regional approval)	September 11
Legislation from Schools to Region Clerk	September 11
Legislation from Region Clerk to State Office	September 22
State Office posts Regional Legislation online	October 5
School submits UIL Contestant Entry Form	<i>no later than 10 days prior to meet</i>
Region Contest Window	November 1 – 15
Region submits Results & Legislation to State Office	<i>no later than November 16</i>
State office posts State Legislation online	<i>no later than December 1</i>
Region Clerk submits Parliamentarian for State	<i>no later than December 1</i>
Qualifying Schools each submit State Scorer	<i>no later than December 1</i>
State Congress Meet	January 8, 9, 10



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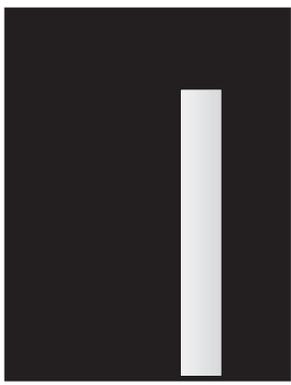
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Introduction

*“Where there are no laws, or individuals have their own rules and laws, there is the least of real democracy.”
-- Gen. Henry Martyn Robert (author, Robert’s Rules of Order)*

Congress is an individual contest in a large group setting. It models the legislative process of democracy, specifically, the United States Congress.

Within this mock legislative assembly competition, contestants draft legislation (proposed laws and position statements) submitted to the tournament, and they research the docket of bills and resolutions dealing with real-world social and political policies prior to the contest to prepare their speeches. At the tournament, students deliver formal discourse on the merits and disadvantages of each piece of legislation, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined. Parliamentary procedure forms structure for the discourse, and students extemporaneously respond to others’ arguments over the course of a session.

Judges evaluate contestants for their research and analysis of issues, argumentation, skill in asking and answering questions, use of parliamentary procedure and clarity and fluency of speaking.

Each Congress session is approximately 3 hours. A student Presiding Officer (PO) runs the session. The PO’s job includes 4 things:

- Recognizing speakers
- Giving time signals
- Conducting votes
- Keeping order

A congress tournament begins with the establishment of an agenda, or order of legislation selected to be debated from the complete docket.

The speech introducing legislation is called an authorship speech if the student who wrote the legislation delivers it before the assembly, or if delivered by a teammate of the student. It is called a sponsorship speech if given by another student in the chamber. The author or sponsor may speak for up to 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes of continuous questioning by other delegates in the chamber.

The first opposing speech is also 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes of questioning.

Each speech afterwards on the same legislation is 3 minutes followed by 1 minute of questioning.

Each judge (also called a “scorer”) evaluates each speech every student in the chamber delivers. Judges also take answers to questions into account. Students are awarded points per speech. The official parliamentarian also scores. Top scorers advance to a “super” final congress.

For additional information, explore resources produced by the University Interscholastic League at www.uiltexas.org/speech/congress.



The **UIL Congress Contest** provides students the exciting opportunity to participate in a mock legislative congress modeled after the United States Congress.

SKILLS INVOLVED THAT MAKE THE CONGRESS CONTEST UNIQUE:

- Parliamentary procedure provides framework for discourse during the contest, teaching students the proper way to conduct meetings
- Speaking before the legislative body must follow parliamentary law
- Critical listening
- Note taking
- Problem Solving as students must create laws in order to solve problems
- Negotiating arts and mediation as they meet in caucuses
- Incorporating element of interpersonal communication as students seek to get their legislation passed successfully
- Learning how proper decorum during formal discussion is a necessity for success
- Increasing civility in discourse
- Writing skills – developing compelling arguments that are real-world
- Providing real-life exposure to Politics, Political Science, Persuasion, Public speaking, Assemblies
- Dealing with newsworthy issues and the current laws of our nation
- Increasing citizenship
- Developing respect for public service
- Cultivating desire to contribute to society
- Building leaders, providing an opportunity to run for Presiding Officer
- Student-driven contest as they author the legislation and set the docket
- Extremely cost-effective: research available via common resources, easily administered contest
- Contest draws from many curriculums, involving students from speech, debate, agricultural and FFA programs, government and social studies, among others

RULES

Section 901 of the *Constitution and Contest Rules*

(b) ACADEMIC CONTEST ETHICS. The general Spring Meet Code means to:

- (1) Participate in contests in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules – both in letter and in spirit.
- (2) Sponsor and advise individuals and teams without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules, or any other unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles.
- (3) Accept decisions of officials and judges without protest and extend protection and courtesy to officials.
- (4) Regard opponents as guests or hosts while placing personal and/ or team integrity above victory at any cost. Maintain grace and poise in victory or defeat. Conduct that berates, intimidates, or threatens competitors, based on gender or ethnic origin, has no place in interscholastic activities.
- (5) Provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to local school administrators or to the appropriate judicial bodies upon request.
- (6) Understand and appreciate the educational values of competition and abstain from modifying or soliciting another teacher to modify grades for eligibility purposes, knowing that such behavior defeats the character-building purposes of extracurricular competition.
- (7) Abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.
- (8) At all times, ensure that competition is relative to a more important overall educational effort, using competition as a tool in the preparation of students for citizenship and successful adulthood.
- (9) Insure that UIL Academic district, regional and state meets receive precedence over non-qualifying contests or meets.
- (10) School districts shall notify the academic district or regional meet director no later than the end of the second school day following academic district or regional competition if a student or a team knows that it will not compete at the next higher academic meet.

C&CR Section 1008: CONGRESS

- (a) THE CONTEST.
 - (1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.
 - (2) *Format.* Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific procedural rules.
- (b) ENTRIES.
 - (1) *Representation.* Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an intent to participate form on the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter three competitors in the congressional region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least ten calendar days prior to the congressional region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total contestants per conference are competing in a congressional region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.
 - (2) *Eligibility.* Speech plan, Section 1000 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the congress competition does not impact a student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate).
 - (3) Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline, require majority consent of the regional congress committee.
- (c) RESOURCES. The contest is discussed and defined in detail in the UIL Congress Handbook and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.
- (d) STRUCTURE. Congress will be organized into regions according to the twenty Educational Service Centers (ESC) designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other within their school's region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each conference competing in the congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the state congressional competition.
- (e) CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP. A directorship of five for each congressional region contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A congressional region clerk appointed by the UIL office will chair the directorship. The congressional region clerk shall be the final authority until the congressional region competition is completed.
- (f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER. The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Rules are synonymous with those in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking. Cell phones and smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.
- (g) CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC. Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.
- (h) RECORDING. Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or state congress sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

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1 **PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST.** The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social
2 and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with
3 formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.

4 **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or
5 reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific
6 procedural rules.

7 **STRUCTURE.** Congress will be organized into regions according to the twenty educational service centers (ESC)
8 designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other
9 within their school's Region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each
10 conference competing in the Congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the
11 State Congressional competition.

12 **CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP.** A directorship of five for each Congressional region
13 contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A Congressional Region Clerk
14 appointed by the UIL State Office will chair the directorship. The Congressional Region Clerk shall be the final authority
15 until the Congressional Region competition is completed.

16 **ENTRIES:**

17 **REPRESENTATION.** Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an Intent to Participate form on
18 the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent
19 shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter three
20 competitors in the Congressional Region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least
21 ten calendar days prior to the Congressional Region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total
22 contestants per conference are competing in a Congressional Region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in
23 that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.
24 Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline, require majority consent of the Regional congress committee.

25 **ELIGIBILITY.** Each contestant shall be eligible under subchapter M of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*. Only
26 students in high school are eligible for this contest. Speech plan, section 1000 of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*,
27 regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the Congress competition does not impact a
28 student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event. (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate)

29 **SUBSTITUTIONS.** An eligible student may be substituted for any name on the official region entry form by providing
30 the contest director with a letter or official substitution form signed by the superintendent or designated administrator
31 certifying the student's eligibility. The letter shall be presented to the contest director before the contest begins.

32 **LIMIT ON SUBSTITUTIONS.** After a given competition has begun, no substitutions shall be allowed.

33 **PLANNING THE REGIONAL CONTEST.** In order to maximize participation by all schools and provide equal
34 opportunity to all students to enter regardless of the existing academic conflict pattern, the congressional competition will
35 be held during the fall/winter. The Congressional Regional Directorship, with input from all participating schools, shall
36 schedule Congressional Region competition during the first two designated region weeks of November. Location and
37 entry fees will be determined by the Directorship.

38 **SIZE OF CHAMBERS.** The optimum size is 20 legislators per chamber for a three-hour session; otherwise, a session
39 should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. If a conference has fewer than fifteen
40 competitors, see *combining conferences at Congressional Region* below.

41 If a school has more than one entry and there are multiple chambers at Congressional
42 Region school entries should be assigned to separate chambers, whenever possible.

43 **NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL REGIONAL CHAMBERS:**

44 **24 or less entries** – There shall be one chamber, which will conduct morning and afternoon sessions. Each
45 session should be three hours of debate time, lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional congressional contestant
46 beyond 20.

47 **25 to 48 entries** – There shall be at least two chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
48 three hours and should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. The top half of each chamber
49 (or whole number closest to that percentage) will advance to a final congress session. The final session shall not be less
50 than three hours, and shall be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

51 **49 to 72 entries** – There shall be at least three chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
52 three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of
53 students shall be selected to advance from each preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no
54 more than 24 students. The final session shall be three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student
55 beyond 20.

56 **73 to 96 entries** – There shall be at least four chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
57 three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of
58 students shall be selected to advance from each preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no

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59 more than 24 students. The final session shall be three four hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional
60 student beyond 20.

61 **97 – 120 ENTRIES.** There shall be at least five chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting
62 of three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. The top one fifth of each chamber (or
63 whole number closest to that percentage) will advance to the final session that will be three hours and lengthened by 10
64 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

65 **COMBINING CONFERENCES AT CONGRESSIONAL REGIONALS.** In the event there are an insufficient number
66 of competitors in some conferences to constitute a chamber, Congressional Regions will combine conferences to achieve
67 the desired chamber(s) size(s). The Region clerk and/or Directorship committee should do this in a fashion as determined
68 by the Region Directorship committee. Those advancing from preliminary to final chambers must be proportionate to the
69 conferences represented. If a conference is represented by only one school, then all of that school's members shall advance
70 to the final chamber and to State.

71 **LEGISLATION.** Participating Regional schools are encouraged to author and submit bills, constitutional amendments,
72 and/or resolutions for debate and are encouraged to author legislation that has an impact on the state of Texas. Schools
73 should assume members of the chamber to be United States Congress representatives. All legislation submitted shall meet
74 UIL formatting and shall be the original product of the school. Plagiarism includes: submitting legislation that was not
75 authored by the student or school. Direct quotation from a published source shall not be allowed in submitted legislation.
76 Students should paraphrase from published sources in submitted legislation. Plagiarism is unacceptable and shall result in
77 the legislation being ineligible for inclusion on the agenda, and the school shall lose authorship speeches for any additional
78 legislation they have in the docket. It shall be the duty of the coach to affirm that the legislation submitted is original.
79 Legislation must be submitted to the regional clerk by the date posted on the UIL Congress webpage to be eligible for
80 review by the clerk and regional committee, which will determine the legislation. A maximum of 20 pieces (10 for
81 prelims, 10 for finals) will be debated at the regional contest. The clerk shall then forward the regional legislation to the
82 UIL state director for final approval and posting on the official UIL website.

83 **SCORERS/PARLIAMENTARIANS.** The congressional regional directorship will determine requirements for providing
84 scorers and parliamentarians for the region competition. Upon request from the regional clerk and committee, in
85 emergency situations, regions may receive a waiver from the UIL state debate director to use one scorer in preliminary
86 sessions.

87 **SCORING CHAMBERS.** A parliamentarian and a minimum of two scorers shall score each chamber, unless a waiver is
88 granted. In regions with fewer than 24 competitors, there will be two sessions with a single chamber. The scorers shall
89 rank students at the end of each session. The parliamentarian shall rank students only at the end of the second session,
90 ranking all contestants from 1st through the total number of members in the chamber. In regions with more than 24
91 competitors, there will be one preliminary session with multiple chambers and one final session.

92 **ASSIGNING RANKS.** Scorers shall rank students at the end of each session. Scorers will rank only the top 8 students
93 from 1ST (best) through 8TH (all unranked students receive a 9 for purposes of tabulation). Parliamentarians shall only rank
94 students at the end of their last session. Parliamentarians shall rank all contestants from 1ST (best) through the total number
95 of members in the chamber.

96 Legislators may be scored on up to five speeches per session. They may deliver more than five speeches, but
97 only the initial five shall be scored. The parliamentarian and scorers shall rate each speech 1- 6, with 1 being worst and 6
98 being the best. Ratings should be based on originality of thought, organization and unity, evidence and logic, and overall
99 delivery. An evaluation sheet should be completed for all members of congress whether they spoke during the session or
100 not. Ratings are not used for advancement purposes but provide feedback to students as to the quality of each speech.

101 **PLACEMENT.** The cumulative ranks of the parliamentarian and each scorer in the chamber shall determine placements
102 using the established tie-breaking rules. The lowest rank of the scorers and parliamentarians shall be first in the chamber,
103 the second lowest shall be second in the chamber, and like manner. The congressional regional directorship shall conduct
104 the tabulation.

105 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the basis of cumulative ranks
106 of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top 8 competitors from 1st (best) to 8th at the end of
107 each session (with all others considered as 9th for purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each
108 competitor from 1st (best) through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In
109 determining cumulative rank totals. The parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus giving equal
110 weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

111 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 112 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 113 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 114 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

115 **BALLOT VERIFICATION PERIOD.** After the preliminary and final rounds (excluding final round at state) and the
116 announcement of unofficial rankings, the individual evaluation sheets shall be made available to each contestant and/or
117 coach. It then becomes the responsibility of the students and/or coach to question any tabulation error before the official

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118 results of those advancing to the final round or being awarded medals is announced. Students and/or coaches who are not
119 present for this announced ballot verification period forfeit their opportunity to verify tabulation. Approximately 15
120 minutes should be allotted for this verification period. This is designed as time to verify tabulation, not a time to question
121 the decision or ranking that a judge has given the student.

122 From the final regional chamber, each congressional region shall advance the top three candidates from each conference to
123 state. Congressional regions with more than 40 entries within a conference will advance the top candidates from each
124 conference based on a ratio of one student advancing for every 10 entries in a given conference (40 – 49 entries = 4
125 students advancing to state; 50 – 59 entries = 5 students advancing to state). The ratio applies to all students entered per
126 conference at the congressional regional tournament. Conference entries shall not be combined for the purpose of
127 determining the ratio qualifying for state.

128 **REGION AWARDS.** Each regional competitor should be recognized for participation. Each state-advancing congress
129 competitor and state alternates shall receive an award for their accomplishment. Further, each final chamber will vote,
130 using the same method employed for selecting a presiding officer for the outstanding presiding officer of that chamber.
131 Outstanding presiding officers shall receive an award for his/her accomplishment.

132 **ALTERNATES.** A first and second alternate to State should be named from each conference in each Congressional
133 Region, if possible.

134 **THE STATE MEET:**

135 In order to participate, each Congressional Region and each school qualifying a contestant to the Congressional State Meet
136 shall be required to provide the following:

137 **LEGISLATION.** At the completion of Congressional Region competition, those students for each conference advancing
138 to State competition shall select one resolution or one bill to be submitted to the State Clerk to be considered as legislation
139 for the State Meet.

140 **STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN/CLERKS/SCORERS.** Each Congressional Region (ESC) advancing competitors to
141 State shall provide one qualified parliamentarian for the duration of the Congressional State competition. Deadline for
142 submission of state parliamentarian by the Regional Clerk is the deadline posted on the UIL Congress website. Each
143 school qualifying a legislator shall provide one individual qualified to serve as a scorer/clerk for the duration of the
144 Congressional State competition. Deadline for submission of state scorer/clerk by each qualifying school is the deadline on
145 the UIL Congress website.

146 **CHAMBER DIVISION.** State-qualifying competitors shall be assigned to a chamber within their own conference at the
147 state meet. Preliminary chambers will be evenly divided, in so much as possible, and shall conduct debate for a morning
148 and an afternoon session.

149 **STATE SCORING.** During preliminary and final sessions, parliamentarians will remain the same in each chamber, but
150 the scorers will be rotated from that chamber after each session. Thus, there should be four scorers and one
151 parliamentarian who have scored the chamber during state preliminary sessions.

152 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the basis of cumulative ranks
153 of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top 8 competitors from 1st (best) to 8th at the end of
154 each session (with all others considered as 9th for purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each
155 competitor from 1st (best) through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In
156 determining cumulative rank totals. The parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus giving equal
157 weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

158 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 159 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 160 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 161 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

162 **ADVANCING FROM PRELIMINARY TO FINALS AT STATE:** both the preliminary and final chambers shall be
163 scored in the fashion herein specified. The number of legislators advancing from each conference chamber must be
164 proportionate to providing 18-20 in the final chamber.

165 **BALLOT VERIFICATION PERIOD.** After the preliminary and final rounds (excluding Super Congress final round at
166 State) and the announcement of unofficial rankings, the individual evaluation sheets shall be made available to each
167 contestant and/or coach. It then becomes the responsibility of the student and/or coach to question any tabulation error
168 before the official results of those advancing to the final round or being awarded medals is announced. Students and/or
169 coaches who are not present for this announced ballot verification period forfeit their opportunity to verify tabulation.
170 Approximately 15 minutes should be allotted for this verification period. This is designed as time to verify tabulation, not
171 a time to question the decision or ranking that a judge has given the student.

172 **STATE AWARDS:** Each student advancing and participating in Congressional State will receive recognition.
173 Additionally, students advancing to the final chamber at State will be recognized. Competitors in the final chamber ranked
174 1 – 6 in each conference will receive medals respective to their rank. Each chamber shall vote for the best presiding officer
175 of that chamber using the same method employed for selecting a presiding officer. Each outstanding presiding officer shall
176 receive an award for his/her accomplishment.

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UIL COMPETITION RULES

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ORDER OF BUSINESS:

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Oath of office (collectively or by chamber)

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Audition of Presiding Officer candidates (order should be drawn by lots)

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- The first candidate's obligation shall include the consideration of "rules of the day," which will remain binding for the duration of the session, unless amended as allowed.

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- Candidates shall NOT be scored during their candidacy, nor shall their candidacy be a consideration for precedence or recency.

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187

Conducting the business of the chamber

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Vote on presiding officer (should be recorded and will be picked up by the Clerk)

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Conducting the business of the chamber

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Chamber adjourns at the established time

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ORDERING THE DOCKET: Chambers may set their own docket.

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At Region and State, all legislation intended for that portion of Congress may be altered by a two-thirds vote, but no new legislation (beyond a resolution of appreciation) may be introduced to the chamber.

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Invitational tournament hosts are not prohibited from using UIL Region and State legislation at their meets.

194

LENGTH OF DEBATE: The length of debate on each piece of legislation may be set in the rules of the day. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the parliamentarian may prompt the presiding officer to ask the chamber if they are "ready for the question," at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself.

195

TIME: Times are absolute in Congress. They can neither be diminished, nor increased by a vote of the chamber.

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- Thus, the first affirmative (author/sponsor) has three minutes to speak on the question, followed by a two-minute question and answer period. If, for instance, the speaker only uses 2 minutes and 30 seconds of his/her speaking time, the remaining 30 seconds does NOT accrue to his/her question and answer period – the first affirmative and negative speaker receives only those two minutes.

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- After the first affirmative and negative speakers have spoken, subsequent speakers will have 3 minutes to speak on the topic and a 1-minute question and answer period.

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- One legislator may NOT yield any portion of his/her time to another legislator, except to ask a question as provided above.

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RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER: Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer. Members should be addressed formally as Congresswoman, Congressman, or Representative when addressing another member of the chamber.

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- At the Region and State Contests, when legislation is first placed in order by a main motion, the presiding officer will call for the author of the legislation. Until precedence and recency (defined below) can be established, s/he may choose whomsoever s/he pleases, giving attention to geography of the chamber. That is, s/he should not choose only from one location of the chamber or from one school known to him/her or from one conference known to him/her.

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If two or more contestants wish to speak that have previously spoken, the precedence rules below will apply in selecting the contestant that has precedence:

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- As speakers are recognized, the presiding officer shall record that the legislator has spoken and in what order. Once a portion of the chamber has spoken, the presiding officer, when recognizing speakers, shall recognize those who have not spoken or who have spoken the fewest times (precedence). If all legislators seeking to speak have the same number of speeches previously, that legislator who has spoken earliest shall be recognized first (recency).

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PRO-CON BLOCK: The pro-con block does NOT exist.

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- The affirmative shall be followed by a negative speech, if one is offered. In like manner, the negative shall be followed by an affirmative speech, if one is offered. If, however, there is no negative after the affirmative or affirmative after the negative, it is permissible to hear two or more affirmatives or negatives in a row.

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TWO-PART OR MULTIPLE PART QUESTIONS: Two-part or multiple-part questions are NOT allowed and cannot be amended by the rules of the day. Members may ask only one question per questioning period, unless members who have not asked a question seek no recognition.

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235 **DECISIONS OF THE CHAIR:** A member may appeal the decision of the chair, which requires a second and a majority
236 vote.

- 237 • As a rule, this is discouraged. Members elected the chair and should have confidence in his/her decisions. This
238 action should be reserved for only the most egregious acts, and should always be preceded with the motion
239 “point of order” to allow the chair the opportunity to reconsider on his/her own.

240 **DECISIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN:** If the parliamentarian and clerk are not the same person, a member or
241 the chair may appeal to the Clerk a decision of the parliamentarian. Such appeals must be made in writing, must be
242 accompanied by a two-thirds vote of the chamber’s members, and no appeal will stop the proceedings of the congress.

243 **DISCUSSION WITH THE PARLIAMENTARIAN.** Prior to an appeal of the decision of the Parliamentarian, two
244 members in opposition, one for the decision and one opposed, may seek to discuss their positions in conference with the
245 Parliamentarian. These are non-scored speeches, and may not be considered by either the Parliamentarian or judges in
246 ranking the student. They are intended only to allow a brief period of time for advocacy.

- 247 • A two-thirds vote to appeal the decision of the Parliamentarian is necessary to appeal.

248 **DECISIONS OF THE CLERK:** The decisions of the Clerk of Congress are final. There is no other authority to which a
249 legislator may appeal.

250 **RIGHT TO IMPEACH:** The members and officers of the congress may not be impeached; however, the parliamentarian
251 of the chamber may request a member be removed for cause.

252 **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** The motion to previous question should be used sparingly and only when debate has lagged,
253 evidence of which is no new or extended arguments are being made.

- 254 • It should **NOT** be entertained by the chair, nor allowed by the Parliamentarian, merely to dispatch legislation in
255 order to debate a different piece of legislation.

256 **TABLING LEGISLATION:** As with a motion to previous question, tabling legislation should be used for very limited
257 purposes and not to deny legislators the opportunity to speak on the legislation.

- 258 • It should **NOT** be entertained by the chair, nor allowed by the Parliamentarian, merely to dispatch legislation in
259 order to debate a different piece of legislation.

260 **OWNERSHIP OF LEGISLATION:** Legislation does **NOT** belong to the chamber until it has been first introduced by
261 the author/sponsor.

- 262 • Objecting to the consideration of a question will not supersede the right of the author/sponsor to introduce the
263 legislation to the chamber before any other motions may be made on the legislation.

264 **AMENDMENTS:** Amendments and amendments to amendments must be presented, written on the appropriate form, to
265 the Parliamentarian first, who shall solely determine the appropriateness of the amendment offered. After the
266 Parliamentarian either approves or disapproves the amendment, they will pass the amendment to the chair, who shall
267 recognize the author of the amendment at the earliest possible time for his/her motion to amend.

- 268 • No amendment shall seek to alter the fundamental intent of the legislation.
- 269 • There is no guarantee of a speech. Upon a one-third vote of the chamber, a delegate may move the question, or
270 the PO may call for speeches in affirmation of the amendment. The amending legislator is not guaranteed this
271 privilege; it is based on precedence and recency.
- 272 • Amendment speeches shall count toward precedence and recency.

273 **SCORED SPEECHES:** Speeches will only be scored when the member of the chamber has been recognized to give a
274 speech for or against the legislation or amendment at hand.

- 275 • Scorers and the Parliamentarian shall rate each speech on a 6-point scale with 1 being worst and 6 being best.
- 276 • Motions or a member offering “floor debate” shall **NOT** be a scored speech.

277 **RANKING LEGISLATORS:** At the end of the preliminary session, the scorers will rank the members of the chamber 1-
278 8 (1 = best, 2 = 2nd best, etc. for that session and only that session). All other members will receive a rank of 9. The
279 Parliamentarian shall only rank students at the end of their last session. Parliamentarians shall rank all contestants from 1st
280 (best) through the total number of members in the chamber.

- 281 • The cumulative sum of the scorers and parliamentarian will determine members’ final rank. (In order from
282 lowest cumulative rank (1st) to highest cumulative rank.)

283 For example, Legislator A receives a 2 from scorer 1, a 3 from scorer 2 and a 1 from the
284 Parliamentarian. The legislator’s cumulative score would be 6.

285 If a tie occurs, the tiebreaking procedures shall be implemented. For State competition, ties shall be broken by: 1) Judges
286 preference (**adjusted**) 2) Reciprocal fractions (**adjusted**) 3) Rank by parliamentarian (raw score) UIL State Officials shall
287 conduct the tabulation.

- 288 • This method is used regardless of the number of scorers.
- 289 • If there is more than one preliminary session, the cumulative ranks will determine final ranking for the purposes
290 of recognition or advancement to a final chamber.
- 291 • Scorers may be changed after a session (and it is recommended they are changed), but the Parliamentarian
292 remains with the chamber until it stands adjourned.

UIL CONGRESS RULES & PROCEDURES 2017 – 2018

293 **VOTING BY THE CONGRESS:**

294 **VOTING IN CHAMBER:** Only those members present at the time of a vote shall have their vote counted for all matters
295 before the chamber, including but not limited to motions, amendments and to pass legislation.

296 **QUORUM:** The chamber must have a quorum of 50% plus one member to conduct business. This is based on the
297 original number of legislators seated at the beginning of the session.

298 **ADVANCEMENT BY THE CONGRESS:** Ranking in the chamber for advancement to a final round will be done by the
299 cumulative ranks of the scorer and parliamentarian, not the members of the chamber.

300 **VOTING FOR PRESIDING OFFICER:** The nominees for Presiding officer should have an audition period, which
301 should not last more than a total of one hour irrespective of the number of auditions in the chamber. The Parliamentarian
302 will divide this time equally. At the end of the audition period, the parliamentarian with the assistance of the chamber
303 clerk shall ballot the membership of the chamber. Voting shall be done by preferential balloting until a clear majority is
304 established.

- 305 • In each balloting, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the next round of balloting.
- 306 • If the total number of ballots received by multiple candidates is less than the next highest candidate, all the lower
307 candidates shall be removed from the next round of balloting.
- 308 • If there is a tie among the lowest candidates and the total number of votes received is greater than the next lowest
309 candidate, a separate ballot between those candidates must be conducted.
- 310 • Repeat this process until only two candidates remain. Conduct a ballot between the two remaining candidates.
311 The candidate who receives the most number of votes will have the choice of serving as presiding officer in the
312 morning session or the afternoon session and the other candidate will serve as presiding officer in the other
313 session.
- 314 • Only those members elected in a preliminary session may offer their candidacy in the final legislative session. If
315 no preliminary presiding officers advance, open auditions will be conducted.
- 316 • In any consolation congress, any member may offer himself or herself for the position of presiding officer.

317 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER:** The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval
318 devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain
319 disabled throughout the contest. Rules are synonymous with those in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking. Cell phones and
320 smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

321 **VISUAL AIDS:** If any member uses visual aids, the visual aids shall be left before the chamber and shall be available for
322 use by all members.

323 **OPEN CHAMBER:** UIL Congress shall be an open chamber, but congress members shall request and must receive
324 permission from the presiding officer to leave the chamber. Members are encouraged to limit time absent to a strict
325 minimum. (i.e. 5 minute break)

326 **CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC.** Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open
327 to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.

328 **RECORDING:** Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or State Congress
329 sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

Writing Legislation

While UIL rules do not mandate that each school or legislator submit bills (proposed laws) or resolutions (position statements of conviction) as a requirement for participating in Congress, authoring legislation provides excellent research and technical writing experience for students and gives the right to deliver the authorship speech which introduces the bill or resolution to the congressional assembly. This provides the opportunity to deliver up to three minutes of constructive speech on the legislation, a clear advantage for Congress competitors. Writing an effective piece of legislation will require the legislator to research an important issue, discovering what constituents are impacted by the problem, exploring how the issue can best be addressed, what government agency would be involved, and how feasible a solution might be. It demands study of implementation, if it is a bill. How much time should be required to phase in the legislation? To write an effective piece of legislation, these areas must be considered in the planning stages and then directly addressed within the written legislation. Although resolutions lack the force of law like bills do, they also require research before writing.

Legislation for UIL Congress should have a national approach. Templates are provided so you can master the proper formatting. All legislation should be double-spaced and fit on one page. Be sure to label with the school name at the bottom of the legislation. The following are criteria to consider when developing legislation for competition.

Debatability: There must be arguments on both sides in order to generate solid debate. This promotes an equal amount of speeches on both the affirmative and negative side of the legislation.

Interest: Select an issue that not only engages critical thinking, but that has a high level of interest on the part of students, scorers and parliamentarians since much time will be devoted within the chamber to discussion of the legislation.

Recency: Is the issue current with the times? Developing legislation around a fresh topic and one that is not overly debated is always recommended.

Jurisdiction: Can Congress really do this? Make certain the correct governmental body has been designated to enforce the legislative bill.

Clarity: Seek to be clear on exactly what the bill is intended to do or what the resolution is declaring and express it concisely in the writing of the legislation.

Guard against plagiarism. Schools should never submit legislation for UIL competition that was not authored by the school's students. Direct quotation for a published source shall not be allowed in submitted legislation. Students should paraphrase from published sources. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Coaches must affirm that the legislation submitted is original and a statement of confirmation must be included at the bottom of each legislation submitted for consideration. Refer to the UIL template that follows this discussion.



A Bill to [Action Word] [article] [Object] to [Summarize the Solution Specifically]

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** State the new policy in a brief declarative sentence, or in as few
3 sentences as possible.

4 **SECTION 2.** Define any ambiguous terms inherent in the first section.

5 **SECTION 3.** Name the government agency that will oversee the enforcement of the
6 bill along with the specific enforcement mechanism.

7 A. Go into further details if necessary.

8 B. Go into further details if necessary.

9 **SECTION 4.** Indicate the implementation date/timeframe.

10 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by _____ (school name).

*We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school a
has permission to be presented.*



A Bill to Implement a Flat Tax Rate in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government will implement a flat tax rate.

3 **SECTION 2.** The United States federal government will implement tax system which
4 taxes all household income at a uniform rate of 10% regardless of income
5 level.

6 **SECTION 3.** The uniform tax rate must include and adhere to the following:

7 A. Easy computation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and
8 straightforward payments from taxpayers.

9 B. Taxation of only one income, with ease of understanding and
10 reporting.

11 C. Savings accrued to taxpayers from avoiding current IRS regulations
12 and the associated costs for lawyers, accountants and other
13 resources.

14 **SECTION 4.** The government agencies enforcing this legislation will be the:

15 - U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

16 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will be implemented immediately upon passage.

17 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

18

19 *Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Medina Valley HS.*



A Resolution to [Action Word] [article] [Object] to [Summarize the Solution Specifically]

- 1 **WHEREAS,** State the current problem (this needs to be accomplished in one brief
2 sentence); and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Describe the scope of the problem cited in the first whereas clause (this
4 clause needs to flow logically from the first) and the inherent need for a
5 solution; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Explain the impact and harms perpetuated by the current problem (once
7 again, the clause needs to flow in a logical sequence); and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Use additional “whereas” clauses to elaborate rationale for the problem
9 that needs to be solved; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled make the following
11 recommendation for solution (a call for action); and, be it
- 12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That (this is an *optional* additional recommendation; if not used,
13 end the previous “resolved” clause with a period).

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by ____ (school name).

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and has permission to be presented.



A Resolution to Repeal the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan

- 1 **WHEREAS,** After World War II, the United States and the United Nations signed a
2 treaty with Japan to return sovereignty with the exception of Japan's
3 military; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** This treaty is outdated, and Japan faces multiple threats from regional
5 powers in the status quo; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. partially carries the burden of Japanese security, although Japan
7 is capable of fully maintaining its own security; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** The Japanese parliament passed numerous security bills that allow Japan
9 to increase the size of the military; and
- 10 **WHEREAS,** The treaty between the United States and Japan is preventing Japan from
11 keeping a standing army and being self-reliant; now, therefore, be it
- 12 **RESOLVED,** That the UIL Congress here assembled recommend repealing the Treaty
13 of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and
14 Japan; and, be it
- 15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the United States shall gradually withdraw military forces
16 from Japanese territories.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School



A Resolution to Amend the Constitution [to...]

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the UIL Congress here assembled, that the following
3 article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United
4 States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the
5 Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the
6 several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the
7 Congress:

8 **ARTICLE --**

9 **SECTION 1:** State the first part.

10 **SECTION 2:** The UIL Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
11 legislation.

Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by _____ (school name).

We certify that the legislation submitted by this school for this Congress is the original work of the students of our school and has permission to be presented.



A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Grant a Third Presidential Term

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the UIL Congress here assembled, that the following
3 article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United
4 States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the
5 Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the
6 several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the
7 Congress:

8 **ARTICLE XXVIII**

9 **SECTION 1:** The twenty-second article of amendment to the Constitution of the
10 United States is hereby repealed.

11 **SECTION 2:** No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than
12 thrice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for
13 more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall
14 be elected to the office of the President more than twice. But this article shall not apply
15 to any person holding the office of President when this article was proposed by the
16 Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President,
17 or acting as President, during the term within which this article becomes operative from
18 holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

19 **SECTION 3:** The UIL Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
20 legislation.

21

22 *Introduced for UIL Congressional Debate by Judson High School.*

A large, stylized letter 'R' is positioned on the left. The left vertical bar of the 'R' is a solid black square. The right curve of the 'R' is a light gray color with a subtle gradient, appearing to emerge from the black square.

RESOURCES



Table of Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions

Type	Motion	Purpose	Second Required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Required Vote	May Interrupt?
Privileged	24. Fix time for reassembling	To arrange time of next meeting	Yes	Yes-T	Yes-T	Majority	Yes
	23. Adjourn	To dismiss the meeting	Yes	No	Yes-T	Majority	No
	22. Recess	To dismiss the meeting for a specific length of time	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	Majority	No
	21. Rise to a question of privilege	To make a personal request during debate	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	20. Call for orders of the day	To force consideration of a postponed motion	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
Incidental	19. Appeal a decision of the chair	To reverse a decision	Yes	No	No	Majority	Yes
	18. Rise to a point of order or parliamentary procedure	To correct a parliamentary error or ask a question	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	17. Division of the chamber	To verify a voice vote	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	16. Object to the consideration of a question	To suppress action	No	No	No	2/3	Yes
	15. Divide a motion	To consider its parts separately	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
	14. Leave to modify or withdraw a motion	To modify or withdraw a motion	No	No	No	Majority	No
	13. Suspend the rules	To take action contrary to standing rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Subsidiary	12. Rescind	To repeal previous action	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3	No
	11. Reconsider	To consider a defeated motion again	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	10. Take from the table	To consider tabled motion	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	9. Lay on the table	To defer action	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	8. Previous question	To force an immediate vote	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	7. Limit or extend debate	To modify freedom of debate	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	2/3	No
	6. Postpone to a certain time	To defer action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	5. Refer to a committee *	For further study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	4. Amend an amendment °	To modify an amendment	1/3	Yes	No	Majority	No
	3. Amend °	To modify a motion	1/3	Yes	Yes	Majority	No
	2. Postpone indefinitely	To suppress action	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
Main	1. Main motion	To introduce a business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No

* No. 5 should include:

1. How appointed
2. The number
3. Report when or to what standing committee

T = Time

° Nos. 3 and 4 by:

1. Adding (inserting)
2. Striking (deleting)
3. Substituting

Q & A

WHERE CAN I LOCATE THE UIL CONGRESS WEBPAGE?

www.uiltexas.org/speech/congress

HOW DO I ENTER MY SCHOOL IN CONGRESS?

Fill out the Intent to Participate Form located on the UIL website by Sept. 11

No later than 10 calendar days prior to the contest (or earlier if the region requires) submit the UIL Congress Contestant Entry Form to declare eligibility. Your clerk may also require entry via Joy of Tournaments, but this is not a substitute for the UIL form.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE?

All students must meet the no pass – no play law established by the State of Texas. The TEA-UIL Side by Side manual provides answers to many of your eligibility questions. This manual can be located on the home page of the UIL website. Review it first and then consult with your Academic Coordinator and/or local administrator. If you still have questions, call the League (512-471-5883) and ask to speak to Dr. Mark Cousins

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH ESC MY SCHOOL IS IN?

Access the ESC map on the Congress webpage.

WHAT PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED FOR STATE MEET?

- **There are no entry fees for the Congress State Meet.**

Online results from your region meet submitted by your Region Clerk serve as your official entry for State. Judging forms (to be completed online by each qualifying school) are due in the League office no later than December 1 and are required for competition at State.

Legislation: You may write and submit Legislation to your Region Clerk by September 11. Region Clerks submit the legislation selected from your region for each qualifying conference. At the completion of Congressional Region competition, students for each conference advancing to State Competition shall select one bill or one resolution to be submitted to the State Office to be considered as legislation for their conference chamber at State Meet.

Scorer/Judges/Clerks: Each school qualifying a legislator shall provide one (1) individual qualified to serve as a scorer (Judge)/clerk for the duration of the State competition. Deadline for submission of scorer/clerk by each qualifying school is December 1.

Parliamentarians: Each Congressional Region (ESC) advancing competitors to State shall provide one (1) qualified parliamentarian for the duration of the State Competition. Deadline for submission of parliamentarian by the Region Clerk is December 1. If the designated parliamentarian qualified a student to State, serving as parli will fulfill their school's judging obligation.

- **What should I wear?**

Business attire is appropriate. State champions will be photographed so remain dressed appropriately in tournament attire to have your picture taken.

- **What if I cannot come to State Meet?**

Notify your Region Clerk and Jana Riggins, State Director immediately if you are unable to attend State Meet. Alternates will need sufficient time to make arrangements for competing, so do this in a timely manner.

- **What do I do if I'm an alternate?**

If you attend State Meet as an alternate, report to the assembly room for roll call. Official substitution of alternates will be made at the end of roll call. Even if you are not subbed in you can watch a chamber's proceedings as a great learning experience.

WHAT IS BALLOT VERIFICATION?

It is a required contest procedure at UIL tournaments. After results are tabulated and before they are certified as "official" results and medals awarded, contest directors should announce a period of approximately 15 minutes when coaches and students have an opportunity to look at rankings and ballots.

WHY DO I NEED A SCORER/JUDGE FOR CONGRESS STATE?

Contest Rules require every school that qualifies a contestant to supply an experienced scorer. The state tournament is large with many chamber assignments to be covered by judges. Having schools bring judges provides students with a geographically balanced judging pool.

WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL QUALIFIED TO SCORE AT THE STATE MEET?

When you start the year, realize that at least 1 of your students just might qualify for state. Therefore, it's a good idea to offer to judge Congress rounds at invitational tournaments. Tournament officials will welcome a willing scorer for Congress! The more rounds you observe, the more confident you will feel judging. Besides, judging at tournaments makes you a better coach since you can discuss the congressional debate you heard with your students after the tournament. If, after judging throughout the year you still do not feel qualified, find someone qualified to bring as your scorer.

WHEN SHOULD I MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGIONALS OR STATE?

Make tentative hotel arrangements months in advance. Austin is the Capitol city and a popular tourist attraction. For Congress, early fall is adequate. Follow your school district's policies for paperwork.

WHAT IF I HAVE A QUESTION THAT IS NOT ANSWERED IN THIS CONTEST GUIDE?

Feel free to contact the UIL State Director. E-mail is the easiest and quickest way to get a response. You may also call or write:

Jana Riggins
UIL Director – Speech & Debate
University of Texas, Austin
Box 8028
Austin, TX 78713-8028
jriggins@uiltexas.org
512-471-5883
512-232-7311 fax

Ethics in Coaching Forensics

Competition can bring out the *best* or the *beast* in coaches and students. Although there are sometimes differences among Texans about just what is “ethical”, there is general consensus that unethical behavior occurs all too often in forensic competition. The attitude of “*win at all costs*”, “*if your squad is going to use a tactic – my students will use it too, whether it’s right or not,*” is a trap you won’t want to fall into as a beginning coach.

What is unethical when it comes to competition? What should you avoid?

- Unsportsman-like conduct** – Never treat judges and tournament officials disrespectfully, even if you disagree with their opinion. Your students learn by example. Teach your students sportsmanship and courtesy.

- Taking shortcuts** – Don’t resort to skipping the important steps of having students check all evidence before using it in a debate round, trying to pass off inappropriate documentation in prose and poetry contests, or illegal materials in the extemporaneous speaking preparation room. You not only risk disqualification of your student, but your credibility with your coaching colleagues.

- “Everybody else is doing it” attitude** – Never excuse unethical behavior just because it seems other coaches are doing something. There are many more coaches who are following the letter of the law.

- Looking for Loopholes** – Violating the spirit of the rule when the intent is clear by arguing the “letter” of the law is not exemplary behavior. Don’t try to skirt the rules nor teach your students to do so.

- Abuse of scholarship of the activity** – Forensics is a noble endeavor. Set high standards of decorum for yourself and your students. Using a ballot to punish students from a school you don’t like or whose coach you aren’t fond of, manipulating sectioning/pairings in the tabulation room, doing your students work for them, dropping teams without notice, berating or intimidating tournament officials, demonstrating a lack of courtesy toward other competitors, and a general disrespect for rules are not what forensics should be about.

As speech educators, we have a responsibility to our profession as well as our students. We must ensure that the educational aspect of our activities takes precedence over the competitive aspect and we must be careful how we help students define “winning.”

Place *Integrity* over *Victory*. Be proud of your students if they have done their best. Teach your students not only the written rules, but also the unwritten rules of etiquette and ethics.

How to Run the Meet

Hosting the Meet

These directions expand upon but do not replace the information in the *UIL Constitution* and the contest rules. The contest director should read sections 1000 and 1008 of the Constitution, then read these guidelines for additional details. See also the Academic Quick Reference Chart, found on the UIL website.

Preparation for the contest

The League office appoints a Regional Clerk to organize the UIL schools who are members in their Education Service Center. In addition, four Region Congress Committee members should be selected by the ESC participating schools to assist with the meet.

FACILITIES

Consider the following items in selecting the appropriate building(s) on campus to house the competition, and work with the director to secure permission for the use of the buildings and needed rooms and to ensure their availability.

- Number of rooms (one room for every chamber)
- Location of the rooms (buildings) on campus in relation to one another
- Facilities for tabulation

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- Congress Clerk Checklist
- Contest Materials: Download from the Congress page of the UIL website
 - Presiding Officer Rubric
 - Judging Instructions
 - Oath of Office
 - Debate Rubric: Speaking
 - Speech Evaluation
 - Master Ballot
 - Presiding Officer Evaluation
 - Parliamentary Ballot
 - Amendment Form
 - Table of Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions
 - Chamber Voting/Election Record
 - Precedence/Recency Table & Fractions of Parliamentary Voting
- Legislation: submitted by participating schools
- Rosters/Seating Charts for each chamber
- Stop watches
- Gavels

SCHEDULE

Consider the following items in selecting a date and a time.

- Minimum loss of school time
- Adequate time to run the needed number of rounds (3 hours per session)
- Time for tabulation, verification and announcement of winners
- See contest procedures for determining prelims and/or finals for each chamber

REGIONAL FORMAT

Sample Time Schedule for a One-Day Student Congress

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration and verification of entries
8:30 am – 11:30 am	Morning session, break for lunch
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Afternoon session
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Elections and Awards

Sample Time Schedule for a Two-Day Session

First Day

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Registration and verification of entries
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Session I

Second Day

8:30 am – 11:30 am	Session II, break for lunch
12:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Session III
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Joint meeting, elections, awards

CHAMBER OFFICIALS

- 2 Scorers per chamber
- 1 Parliamentarian per chamber
- Student presiding officer

AWARDS

Designate medals to the winners according to the guidelines on the Academic Awards Chart posted on the UIL website. Places 1 – 6 receive individual awards. The top presiding officer receives an award, traditionally an engraved gavel. If a contestant advances to the final chamber in this event but does not compete in that round, the contestant should not receive a place (rank). He or she also does not contribute points to the speech team award or sweepstakes. (Note: Currently, sweepstakes points for Congress only apply at the state level.)

INFORMATION TO SCHOOLS

As early as possible, the Region Clerk should disseminate the following information to the schools/coaches involved.

- Date
- Site
- Time and place to register (Some ESC regions register electronically via Joy of Tournaments for convenience in administering the tournament. Even if this is the case, all schools must also enter contestants using the UIL Entry Form located on the UIL Congress webpage.)
- Time schedule
- Requirements (if any) to provide scorers/parliamentarians for the meet
- Criteria for scorers/parliamentarians (age requirement, experience level, etc.)
- Deadline for entries/"change in entry" procedures
- Entry fees and/or scorer fees
- Hospitality/concession plans

After entries are received

ENTRIES

Check that all participating schools in your ESC have registered their contestants on UIL Contestant Entry Form which declares their eligibility. If your ESC chose to administer the contest via Joy of Tournaments, make sure contestants on the UIL form match JOT.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Before the contest begins, students may be substituted for entries on the official region entry form if the substitute presents the Region Clerk with substitute eligibility forms or letters from the superintendent or designated administrator certifying their eligibility.

CHAMBER ASSIGNMENTS

In regions with fewer than 24 competitors, there will be 2 sessions with a single chamber. Scorers shall rank students at the end of each session. In regions with more than 24 competitors, there will be one preliminary session with multiple chambers and one final session.

Follow the instructions given in the Congress Contest Rules & Procedures to determine chamber assignments for each contestant. The optimum size of a chamber is 20 legislators for a three-hour session. Otherwise, a session should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. If a conference has fewer than 15 competitors, see the instructions in the current Congress Rules for combining conferences.

If a school has more than one entry and there are multiple chambers at Congressional Region, school entries should be assigned to separate chambers, whenever possible.

The day of the tournament

CONDUCTING THE CHAMBER

Refer to the contest rules for the Order of Business, Ordering the Docket and Length of Debate for the chamber, beginning with Line 179 of the rules.

Times are absolute in UIL Congress. They can neither be diminished nor increased by a vote of the chamber.

First Affirmative (author/sponsor)

3 -minute speech, followed by a 2-minute question and answer period

First Negative

Follows the question and answer period of the first affirmative.

Once the first affirmative and negative speakers have spoken, subsequent speakers will have 3 minutes to speak on the topic and a 1-minute question and answer period.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CHAMBER

The use of laptop and table computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Usage must follow the guidelines prescribed for UIL Extemporaneous Speaking. (See below.) Cell phones and smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. (Traditional timing devices are permitted.)

(From UIL Extemporaneous Speaking)

Use of electronic retrieval devices during the contest

A. Computers and other electronic retrieval devices are defined as: laptop, tablet and netbook computers, other

portable electronic retrieval devices and secondary devices such as flash drives and external hard drives.

B. Cell phones or smart phones are not allowed during the contest.

C. Computers may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.

D. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during the contest are not permitted.

E. Computers or other electronic equipment may not be used to receive information from any sources (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside the preparation room. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the preparation room are prohibited. *This statement does not preclude the use of timing devices.*

F. Contestants may utilize allowable devices for the purpose of accessing stored files, but shall not use them to outline their speech or otherwise organize their thoughts.

G. The contestant shall not remove the electronic retrieval devices from the preparation area until after the contestant's speech has been delivered.

Sanction: Contestants found to have violated provisions B-G above shall be disqualified. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.

H. Devices must be muted in the preparation room during the contest. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices. Tournament officials may ask a contestant to power off the device if it becomes distracting.

I. Contestants from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, conversing among contestants is not allowed.

Source Materials: Contestants may consult magazines, newspapers, journals and other published source materials saved on their electronic retrieval devices if the following standards are met:

A. There shall be no modification. Each document shall be a single, complete source in and of itself. Indexing without annotation is allowed.

B. An article may be highlighted in only one color. Bolding, italicizing, underlining or any other manipulation of the original text of the article is prohibited.

C. The presence of pre-written extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines on electronic retrieval devices during the contest is prohibited. If the contestant also uses the device for the debate contest, debate materials including but not limited to cases, briefs, outlines and flows must be stored on a separate external retrieval device disconnected or otherwise inaccessible and shall not be accessed during the extemporaneous speaking contest.

D. Contestants may not access audio, video or other active multi-media files during the contest.

Logistics

A. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers and batteries. Tournaments hosts shall not be responsible for providing computers for contestants.

B. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the preparation room at any time.

C. Contestants who choose to use laptop computers accept the risk of equipment failure. Should equipment failure occur, no special considerations or accommodations, including additional preparation time or speech time, will be given by judges, contest directors or tournament hosts.

D. Contestants accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entirety of all UIL tournaments. Contestants, parents and coaches should be aware that contestants are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. UIL is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken computers.

Monitoring. By choosing to use electronic retrieval devices in the preparation room, contestants are consenting to allow tournament officials to monitor their files. Contestants who do not wish to consent should not use electronic retrieval devices.

RECORDING

Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or state congressional chambers. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

TABULATING RESULTS

See Lines 87-104 of the UIL Congress Rules 2017-2018 for assigning ranks, placement and advancement.

Ballot Verification

This period is mandatory. Before the official results are announced in both preliminary and final rounds, the contestants and/or coaches should be given the unofficial results and allowed to view individual evaluation sheets for approximately 15 minutes. The master tabulation sheets should be available during the verification period. Contestants and/or coaches may, at this time, bring up any questions concerning tabulation to the attention of the Region Clerk or tabulation officials. The Clerk will then correct any errors before the official results are announced. Questions about scorer and/or parliamentary decisions are not allowed.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

When the ballot verification period is over, the official results may be announced or posted. These results are final. At this time, individual scoring sheets may be released to coaches/students.

POINTS

Individual Points:

1st – 15

2nd – 12

3rd – 10

4th – 8

5th – 6

6th – 4

***Speech Team Points**

The UIL Spring Meet Online Entry System will calculate and award speech team points.

After the tournament

REPORT TO STATE DIRECTOR

The Region Clerk shall submit the ESC region results for each conference via the UIL Congress Results Form located on the UIL website by the prescribed deadline.

ADVANCEMENT

From the final regional chamber, the top 3 students in each conference*

Congressional regions with more than 40 entries operate under a ratio system for advancement. See Lines 122 – 127 of the UIL Congress Contest Rules.

OBLIGATION OF EACH ESC REGION

In order to participate in the UIL Congress State Meet, each Congressional Region and each school qualifying a contestant to the state meet shall be required to provide the following:

- Each Congressional ESC advancing competitors to State shall provide one qualified parliamentarian for the duration of the state competition.
- Each school qualifying a legislator shall provide one individual qualified to serve as a scorer/clerk for the duration of the state competition.
- Students for each conference advancing to State shall select one resolution or one bill to be submitted to the State Clerk for consideration as legislation at State.

Region Clerk Checklist

FIRST THINGS FIRST:

Familiarize yourself with the specific contest rules and read through the directions for hosting the meet preceding this checklist.

A regional committee of five individuals is mandated under contest rules, with the Region Clerk serving as the Chair. Have the ESC participating schools select four other participating coaches to serve on the committee. Clerks should include the committee when determining decisions concerning the contest.

Familiarize yourself with the UIL Congress webpage in order to be able to navigate other coaches to contest information on the UIL website (deadlines, legislation template, contest dates, rules, ballots and additional forms).

Use your Regional Educational Service Center resource page (on your particular ESC website) to find the list of schools in your ESC region. Then, distribute your contact information to other coaches in your ESC.

Encourage coaches to use the Congress Guide, available on the UIL website.

Examine contest materials online to be familiar with the intent of each form.

All schools wishing to participate in Congress must submit the electronic Intent to Participate Form via the UIL website. Do not honor verbal confirmations; insist the coaches submit the form.

NOTE: The Intent to Participate form and the due date for submitting legislation are the same. The UIL State Office will be forwarding you an Excel spreadsheet with all schools that have submitted their intent. If there are discrepancies in the spreadsheet and local list, contact the State Office.

BEFORE THE CONTEST:

- Has the committee decided on a fee structure and a registration process to officially register students for the contest? The region clerk is responsible for giving receipts for payment of fees.
- Has the committee decided on a procedure to procure judges, either hired or school-sponsored?
- Has a contest site been determined? Do you have enough rooms?
- Has the region clerk procured all forms necessary to conduct the contest? (ballots, parliamentary ranking form, amendment forms, etc.) All contest materials are downloadable from the UIL website. No materials will be shipped hard copy. Double check the number of ballots and judge forms needed before the contest begins.
- If you have been notified of schools dropping, did you inform the State Office?
- Has the region procured trophies and awards (if necessary)?
- Have placards been generated for all contestants, once entries are final?
- Have you given specific jobs to each member of the committee?
- Have you made a decision on hospitality for both judges and coaches?

EVALUATING LEGISLATION:

Did they use the UIL Format Template?

- Is there a header?
- Is there a footer?
- Are there line numbers?
- Is the authorship included near the bottom of the legislation? (should be the name of school and NOT the name of student)

- Is the original work statement included at the bottom of the legislation?
- Is the title of the legislation short, concise, and easy to understand? (similar to a tagline in a debate case)
- Did they use the appropriate template?
 - Is it a bill? If so, it has sections.
 - Is it a resolution? If so, it has “*whereas*” clauses and a “*be it resolved*” clause.
- Is it an amendment to the Constitution?
- Is it punctuated correctly? Look at the sample template. Are periods at the ends of sentences?
- Has it been spell checked by a human? Only a human knows the difference between “over see” and “oversea.”
- Is the subject matter acceptable for your community standards?
- Does it make sense—including full, grammatically correct sentences?
- If using an acronym, is it presented as a **full title** in the **first use**? (United Nations/UN)
- Is it federal? Federal legislation affecting Texas is permissible and encouraged, but legislation cannot be “Texas-only.”
- Has the topic already been covered? Multiple pieces of legislation on the same topic from the Region Meet should not be submitted to the State Office.

CREATING A DOCKET FOR DEBATE:

- Do you have a procedure in place for ranking legislation submitted by the schools? The ideal size of the docket should be approximately 20 pieces of legislation, but some regions use less.
- Pull legislation that does not meet the UIL requirements. Send it back for revision, with a new deadline for proper submission.
- Email the legislation to your committee members for the purposes of ranking.
- Create a docket with the understanding chambers will set their own order of the docket.
- Email the final docket and all pieces of legislation to the State Office, so all schools in your ESC will have access via the UIL website.

AT THE 10-DAY CONTESTANT ENTRY DEADLINE:

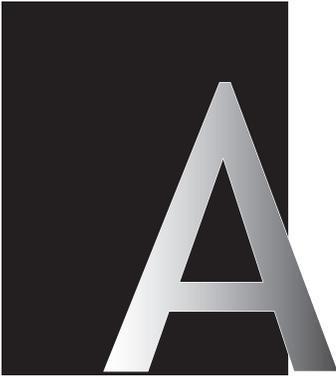
- Have you received official UIL contestant entry forms via UIL for all schools? (even if you are having schools register in Joy of Tournament) The UIL form serves as official eligibility.
- Do you have contestant entry forms for all the schools that sent Intent to Participate forms?
- Does your list match the State Office? If not, why?
- If you have been notified of schools dropping their entries, did you inform the State Office?

DURING THE CONTEST:

- Have you established a verification process? Open or closed tabulation? Committee or everyone? Make sure you have a particular amount of time for an official verification period/coaches challenge, and that you announce the location so all schools know where it will be conducted.
- Have you returned ballots to the competitors by the end of the meet?

AFTER THE CONTEST:

- Have you selected an appropriate piece of legislation to send to the State Office for each individual conference? This should be decided by the end of the meet or a designated plan/deadline is in place should your state qualifiers wish to draft new legislation for the state meet. The region clerk is responsible for emailing the chosen legislation from each conference to the State Office.
- Results form: Have you entered the state qualifiers on the website? This should be done by the prescribed deadline on the UIL website. If there are more than three state qualifiers, a separate email **MUST** be submitted to the State Office with the names of the additional qualifiers. The region clerk must also designate the parliamentarian who will serve on behalf of your ESC at the state meet. This information is required on the results form when entering the state qualifiers.
- Have you made certain that you have entered qualifier names correctly with accurate spelling? This is critical for speaker placards and the program at the State Meet.
- Have you notified the coaches that have advancing students to fill out the required state judge forms on the UIL website by the prescribed deadline?
- Have you told yourself and your committee “GOOD JOB?”



Appendix

Professional Acknowledgement Form

ESC Map

Congress Terminology

Judging Instructions

Speaking Rubric

Speech Evaluation

Presiding Rubric

Presiding Evaluation

Special Needs

TILF Scholarships

For additional information to help students prepare for UIL Congress go to:

www.uiltexas.org/speech/congress

University Interscholastic League

PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF _____

§

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this the _____ day of _____, 20____, personally appeared _____, who after being duly sworn upon his/her oath stated as follows:

- (1) I am _____ of _____, Texas.
- (2) I am currently employed by the _____ Independent School District in the following capacity: _____. I am in charge of district students who participate in activities of the University Interscholastic League.
- (3) I have read and am familiar with, and will continue to read the Leaguer, an online official publication by the UIL, located on UIL web site.
- (4) I have read and am familiar with, and will continue to read the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, activity manuals and other League bulletins and will keep myself informed as updated editions are received, in the contests for which I am responsible, throughout my tenure with this school district.
- (5) I understand the contents of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and activity manuals and relevant web sites in my activity(s) as they are applicable to me, to the students in my charge, to the school to which I am assigned, and to the school district.
- (6) It is my intention to comply with all of the provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. Further, in the event of an official rules change, or an official interpretation, I understand that I will be responsible for abiding by said rules after official notification of the change or interpretation.
- (7) It is my intention to describe to my students all applicable provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules within a UIL activity of which I am in charge. If I do not understand a provision of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, I shall seek a written clarification. If a student, parent, or any other person requests more than a description of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, I will refer them to my district's superintendent or designee, or the UIL staff for opinions and explanations, and to the UIL State Executive Committee for official interpretations.
- (8) I am giving this professional acknowledgement to acknowledge the above stated facts and the professional responsibility I freely accept with respect to my actions or omissions in activities of the UIL, and to assure my students, the parents of my students, my school, my school district, and UIL officers: (a) that I am aware of those actions and omissions that constitute violations of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules; (b) that I am aware of the ranges of possible penalties that may be imposed following a violation; and (c) that I am aware of the persons against whom the UIL may impose penalties.
- (9) In particular, I acknowledge my understanding of the penalties that may be assessed against me should I fail to comply with the provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.
- (10) I acknowledge that I am making this sworn statement to be filed with my superintendent.

This professional acknowledgement is made solely for the purpose set forth herein and does not waive any right nor constitute any admission.

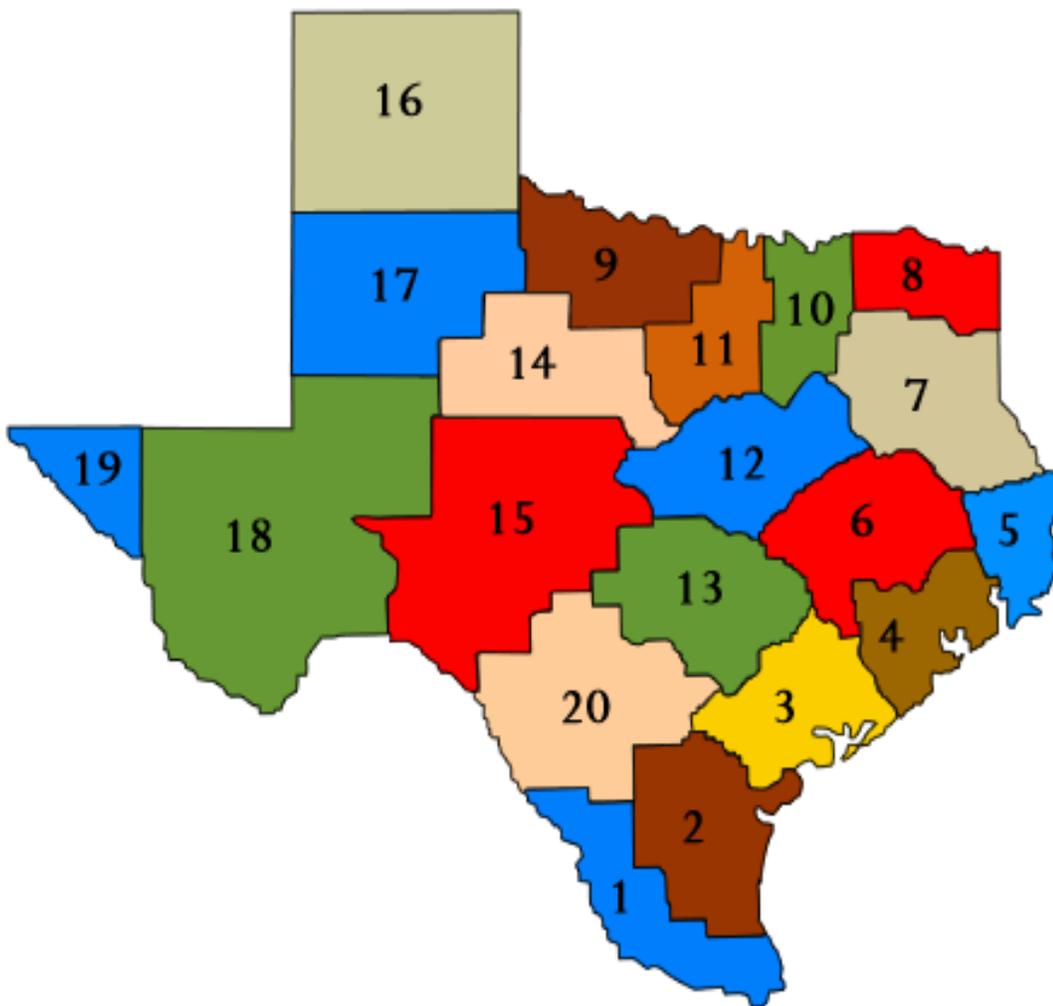
Signed: _____
Signature of Coach/Sponsor/Director

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas
My commission expires on: _____

(Notary Seal)

This form is to be filled in and notarized only once, at the beginning of employment of a high school coach, academic sponsor, and music and One-Act Play director. It is to be filed in the superintendent's office.

Education Service Center Regions



Congressional Debate Terminology

- **Legislation** - a specific, written proposal (in the form of a “bill” or “resolution”) made by a member or committee for assembly to debate.
- **Bill**- type of legislation that describes the details of how a policy would be enacted, if voted into law by the assembly.
- **Resolution** - an expression of conviction, or value belief of an assembly, which may urge, request or suggest further action by another decision-making authority.
- **Docket** - the complete packet of legislation distributed by a tournament.
- **Agenda** - the order of legislation as suggested by a committee or member, and voted on by the assembly.
- **Presiding Officer (PO)** - leader who runs meetings by *recognizing* members to speak or *move*. Also called the **chair**. Modeled after the *Speaker* of the House of Representatives, or the Vice President or President pro tempore of the Senate.
- **Floor** - when a member has the full attention of the assembly to speak (also refers to the area where the assembly meets, where its members speak, and where it conducts its business).
- **Amendment** - a specific change to an item of legislation, explaining exactly which words it modifies, and not changing the *intent* of the legislation itself (*germane*).
- **Authorship Speech** - a *constructive* speech of up to three (3) minutes given by a member, which introduces an item of legislation for debate by the chamber. It is called a sponsorship speech if given by a student who is not affiliated with the school the legislation originated from. All author/sponsorship speeches are followed by a two-minute questioning period. The first negative speech also may have two minutes of questioning.
- **Questioning** - period where the members of the assembly ask individual questions of the speaker. *Multiple-part* (or two- part) questions are not allowed (unless the rules are suspended for that instance, or specific *open/direct questioning* rules are used), because they take time from other members who may wish to question the speaker. For all speeches that follow an authorship – except the first negative speech – the speaker may speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes, followed by one minute of questions. All affirmative and negative speeches that follow an authorship speech should introduce new ideas (arguments) and respond to previous arguments (refute or rebut).
- **Precedence** - standard rule, which requires the presiding officer to choose speakers who have spoken least (or not at all). The only exception to precedence is when a speaker has *authorship* privileges to legislation when it is introduced for debate. In those cases, the presiding officer must recognize the author first.
- **Recency** – where the presiding officer not only employs precedence, but also selects speakers based on who has spoken *least recently* (or *earliest*).



JUDGING (SCORING) CONGRESS

Congress is intended to emulate the U.S. Congress. In theory, the contest combines the best aspects of debate, oratory, and extemporaneous speaking within the structure of parliamentary procedure.

PARLIAMENTARIAN'S OBLIGATIONS

Chambers will operate much more effectively and efficiently if the Parliamentarian does not fear to intervene in order to head off potential problems. This should not be construed to mean that the parliamentarian should run the session; rather that (s)he should have a firm hand on the reins to avoid a runaway congress. The parliamentarian should not be "rushed" into making a hasty or improper decision. After all, his/her decisions are final and should be made after due deliberation. The parliamentarian's guide should be *Robert's Rules of Order*, tempered by common sense and a desire to see the session run as an orderly function. When in doubt, the issue should be resolved by unrestrained debate of the participants.

The key to a successful Congress is one in which the parliamentarian knows how much latitude to allow to stimulate the sessions, and, yet is not frightened by the prospect of using an iron hand when necessary to maintain order, discipline and to ensure an efficient parliament which remains on task.

JUDGING

The parliamentarian remains the same throughout Session I and II. Individual scorers, however, will consider the results of each individual session assigned to score.

A ballot should be completed for all members of Congress whether they spoke during the session or not. Judges shall not confer with others about their selection or reasons for ranking before submitting their decisions.

POINT ASSIGNMENT

- ❖ **Competitors may have 5 scored speeches per session.** They might speak more than 5 times during the session, but only their first 5 speeches should be scored. Consult the **Congressional Debate Rubric: Speaking** for criteria.
- ❖ Amendment speeches are scored.
- ❖ **Speakers may receive up to six points per speech.** Complete a **Speech Evaluation** form for each individual student.
- ❖ **The presiding officer may receive up to six points per clock hour** based on his/her ability in that capacity. Use the **Presiding Office Evaluation** form.
- ❖ **Rank the students at the end of each session,** unless instructed otherwise by the Clerk. Use the **Master Ballot** for the overall ranking of legislators.
- ❖ There can be **no ties** for placement.
- ❖ Provide as much constructive criticism as possible for each of the student's speeches.

Scorers will rank the highest scoring participants 1 through 8 (one being the best) at the end of each session. Ties in the individual rounds will be broken by the Parliamentarian preference, at the end of the second session. **Don't forget to rank the presiding officer, as he or she warrants.**

The parliamentarian and scorers will submit completed scoring sheets to the congressional clerk.



Congressional Debate Rubric: Speaking

This table of evaluation standards may be used by any judge who would like assistance in determining scores for speeches. Each scorer independently (without collaborating) awards 1 to 6 points for each speech. Each speaker has up to three minutes to present argument; followed by a questioning period.

	1 Mediocre	2-3 Good	4-5 Excellent	6 Superior
Content: Organization, Evidence & Language	The speech lacked a clear thesis and organizational structure. Claims are only asserted with generalizations and no real evidence. Language use is unclear or ineffective.	While the speaker's purpose is present, the speech lacks logical organization and/or developed ideas. Analysis of evidence, if present, fails to connect its relevance to the speaker's claims. Use of language is weak.	While a clear purpose is apparent, organization may be somewhat loose (weak introduction/conclusion; no transitions between points). Diction represents a grasp of language. Much evidence is presented, but not in a persuasive or effective manner; or the speaker relies on <i>one</i> piece of evidence, but does so effectively.	Content is clearly and logically organized, and characterized by depth of thought and development of ideas, supported by a variety of credible quantitative (statistical) and qualitative (testimony) evidence analyzed effectively to draw conclusions. Compelling language, a poignant introduction and conclusion and lucid transitions clearly establish the speaker's purpose and frame the perspective of the issue's significance.
Argument & Refutation	The speaker offers mostly unwarranted assertions, which often simply repeat/rehash previous arguments.	The speaker fails to <i>either</i> introduce new arguments (simply repeating previous arguments) <i>or</i> the speaker fails to refute previous opposing arguments; in other words, no real <i>clash</i> is present.	New ideas and response to previous arguments are offered, but in an unbalanced manner (too much refutation or too many new arguments). Questions are answered adequately.	The speaker contributes to the spontaneity of debate, effectively synthesizing response and refutation of previous ideas with new arguments. If the speaker fields questions, he/she responds with confidence and clarity.
Delivery	Little eye contact, gestures and/or movement are present. Vocal presentation is inarticulate due to soft volume or lack of enunciation.	Presentation is satisfactory, yet unimpressively read (perhaps monotonously) from prepared notes, with errors in pronunciation and/or minimal eye contact. Awkward gestures/movement may be distracting.	The presentation is strong, but contains a few mistakes, including problems with pronunciation and enunciation. The speech may be partially read with satisfactory fluency. Physical presence may be awkward at times.	The speaker's vocal control and physical poise are polished, deliberate, crisp and confident. Delivery should be extemporaneous, with few errors in pronunciation. Eye contact is effective and consistent.



Speech Evaluation

Student Name:		Code:
Session #:	Chamber:	Room:

Directions: **Rate** each speech 1-6 points, with *one being the worst, six being the best*, providing comments to *justify* your rating, with *constructive suggestions for improvement*. [At the **end** of the session, you will holistically and comparatively *rank* students, on a separate form.]

Criteria: *When rating, consider the following elements and comment accordingly in the spaces provided.*

- **Originality of Thought** (extent that speech advances debate or merely repeats ideas; whether speaker **refutes** opposing arguments)
- **Organization and Unity** (even though extemporaneous in nature, the speaker should attempt cohesiveness)
- **Evidence and Logic** (cites credible sources and warrants claims accordingly)
- **Delivery** (extemporaneous vs. reading, seriousness of purpose, style and poise; how well the speaker *answers questions*)

Speech 1 – Topic:	Side: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> AFF <input type="checkbox"/> NEG
-------------------	--

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (circle point rating) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Speech 2 – Topic:	Side: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> AFF <input type="checkbox"/> NEG
-------------------	--

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (circle point rating) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Speech 3 – Topic:	Side: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> AFF <input type="checkbox"/> NEG
-------------------	--

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (circle point rating) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Speech 4 – Topic:	Side: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> AFF <input type="checkbox"/> NEG
-------------------	--

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (circle point rating) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Speech 5 – Topic:	Side: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> AFF <input type="checkbox"/> NEG
-------------------	--

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (circle point rating) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Questioning of Other Speakers

(comment on relevance to debate, quality of clarification, etc.)

Print Judge Name:
School/Affiliation:

Judges: *Competitors may have five scored speeches per session; they may have more than five speeches, but only score the first five.*



Congressional Debate Rubric: Presiding

This table of evaluation standards is provided for any judge who would like assistance in determining scores for a presiding officer (P.O.). Each scorer independently (without collaborating) awards 2-6 points for each hour of presiding. The primary job of a presiding officer is to efficiently run the meeting with the purpose of giving students in the chamber the maximum opportunity to participate. An effective presiding officer does not draw negative attention to himself/herself and makes the smooth operation of the session as their highest priority. The position of presiding officer can be the difference between a successful productive session and a session that accomplishes very little. If you feel the Presiding Officer was one of the most effective students in your chamber, it is appropriate for scorers to take into consideration rewarding excellent or superior performance by the presiding officer with one of the highest ranks in the session.

Points	2 Weak-Mediocre	3-4 Good	5-6 Excellent-Superior
Parliamentary Procedure	The P.O.'s knowledge of parliamentary procedure is lacking, and he/she shows negligible effort to correct errors and/or consult written rules. Minimizes opportunities for others to debate by failing to adhere to time specified in a recess motion.	The P.O. demonstrates competency in procedure, but makes mistakes in determining the results of motions and votes, etc.	The P.O. has command of parliamentary procedure (motions) and uses this almost transparently to run a fair and efficient chamber, seldom consulting written rules and ruling immediately on whether motions pass or fail. Brings chamber back into session in a timely fashion following recess.
Recognition	Frequent errors are made in speaker recognition. Students in the chamber rise to a point of order to correct erroneous speaker recognition made by the P.O. The P.O. is slow in recognizing speakers and questioners. There are fewer than 10 speeches per hour in the chamber.	Presiding preferences are not clearly explained. Speaker recognition is somewhat inconsistent or biased. The P.O. is successful in achieving 10 speeches per hour in the chamber.	Presiding preferences are clearly explained at the beginning of the session. The P.O. is consistent in recognition distributing speeches throughout the room based on precedence. The P.O. recognizes speakers and questions in a timely manner to maximize participation. Achieving 12 or more speeches per hour in the chamber is a sign of excellence.
Control	The environment in the chamber does not foster participation. Allows students to abuse parliamentary procedure in place of debating legislation. Encourages frequent recesses.	Guides the chamber to remain focused on debating legislation. At times, students on the chamber floor appear to be more in control of the chamber than the P.O. during the session. Sometimes is unsure of how to rule on motions or business.	The P.O. is respected and trusted by his/her peers. Establishes a business-like environment that fosters maximum participation in the chamber. Rules on motions and business without interjecting himself/herself into the issue.
Demeanor	The P.O. uses their position for their own personal advantage as opposed to operating in the best interest of the chamber as a whole.	Overall, the P.O. creates a professional atmosphere although there are times where the atmosphere is less than totally professional.	The P.O. fosters a respectful, professional and collegial atmosphere. Addresses all members as Representative _____ not by just first or last name.
Communication	Communication between the P.O. and chamber is confusing or counterproductive. Communication from the P.O. (excessive or lack of) prevents maximum participation from members of the chamber.	The P.O. occasionally takes excessive time when explaining rulings. There are times when the members of the chamber are not sure what they are being asked to vote on. The P.O. uses debate time to admonish the members of the chamber regarding issues that the scorers are responsible for evaluating (ex., Reminding members	The P.O. dynamically displays a command and relates well to the chamber through his/her vocal and physical presence. Word choice is economical and eloquent. The P.O. clearly explains the meaning of upcoming votes. Rulings are concisely explained to keep all members of the chamber informed.



Presiding Evaluation

Student Name:		School Code:
Session:	Room:	Chamber #:

Directions: Award a rating of 2-6 points per hour of presiding, with *two being the worst, six being the best*. You will rank students, holistically, at the end of the session, on a separate form. You **may or may not** include the presiding officer in your *ranking*. The presiding officer may also have an evaluation ballot for *speaking* – please be sure to circle the same rank at the bottom of the speech *and* presiding forms. **Auditions** are not scored.

Criteria: *When rating, consider the following elements and comment accordingly below.* **Parliamentary Procedure** (clear in explaining protocols and rulings); **Recognition** (fair and efficient in recognizing speakers and questioners, and maintains appropriate speaker precedence and recency); **Control** (maintains decorum of delegates, and willing to rule dilatory motions/business out of order); **Demeanor** (fosters a respectful, professional, and collegial atmosphere); **Communication** (overall use of language, avoiding unnecessary verbiage).

Specific Comments (*explain your evaluation and justify your rating, providing constructive suggestions for improvement*):

<i>Circle point rating:</i>					X # of Hours	= Total Points
← High/Best		Low →				
6	5	4	3	2		

Print Judge Name:
School/Affiliation:

Academics - Request for Accommodation Process

Submitting a Request

The University Interscholastic League will consider requests to accommodate a student with physical or mental impairments. The school should submit the Request for Accommodation form located at the link below with the appropriate signatures a minimum of two weeks before the contest in which the accommodation is sought. Requests submitted after that time, absent extenuating circumstances, will not be granted.

Request for Accommodation Form: <http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/resources/forms>

The request shall adhere to the accommodations provided by the student's Sec. 504 Committee and/or A.R.D. Committee. No student records are to be submitted to UIL. The only required submission is the signed request with rationale for the accommodation. The completed form should be submitted to the UIL office, Music, Athletics or Academics, that administers the game or contest in question.

Approval Letter

A response letter from UIL granting or denying the requested accommodation will be provided to the school. A UIL letter approving the accommodation can be submitted at any level of the competition. It is the coach's or sponsor's responsibility to notify and provide a copy of the UIL approval letter to the meet director well in advance of the competition. If the student advances to the next higher meet, it is the responsibility of the student's school to notify the region and/or state meet director immediately.

Additional costs or equipment required for accommodations are the responsibility of the school district. It is the responsibility of the host school, contest director and contestant to follow any applicable UIL ethics code or other applicable UIL rule to ensure the honesty of the competitors and the integrity of the competition.

Approval Process

Requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. The facts matter in each case. Just as an example, accommodations have been approved for visual impairments, dyslexia, motor skill impairments and special circumstances to take the test in a separate room. Such accommodations have included the use of an enlarged test copy, a magnifying glass, colored overlay, converting a test to Braille format or use of a computer and printer. UIL, however, will not alter a contest's judging criteria as an accommodation or make other accommodations that would fundamentally alter the game or contest.

TILF Scholarship Opportunities

From 1959 to 2017, TILF has awarded nearly 20,000 scholarships valued at over \$31 million. Amounts of scholarships range from \$500 for one year to \$20,000 over four years. Some scholarships have special requirements or restrictions such as requiring a student to select certain majors, attend specific colleges or universities, or compete in specific contests. Details of all scholarships and their requirements are listed at the TILF website.

Applications may be submitted from March 1 through May 11, 2018, and can be found online at www.tilfoundation.org. (Students competing in speech contests held after the deadline date must apply by May 11, but may submit placement updates via email through May 25, 2018.)

All TILF applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Compete at the state level of competition in a UIL academic contest, including: Accounting, Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition*, Calculator Applications, Computer Applications, Computer Science, Current Issues and Events, Debate (Cross-Examination* & Lincoln-Douglas), Journalism (Editorial Writing, Feature Writing, Headline Writing & News Writing), Literary Criticism, Mathematics, Number Sense, Latino History Essay Competition*, One-Act Play, Ready Writing, Science, Social Studies, Speech (Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Informative Speaking & Persuasive Speaking), Spelling & Vocabulary, Student Congress, Theatrical Design, and Young Filmmakers Festival*.

***Special Notes:** Only Cross-Examination Debate State Meet competitors advancing to the second day elimination rounds as one of the top 16 teams may apply. For students who compete in the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition, Latino History Essay Competition, and/or Young Filmmakers Festival, only students who advance to **state finals** are eligible to apply.

Advancing to the state level in academic pilot contests that are not yet officially sanctioned by the UIL, including Robotics, does not qualify a student to apply for TILF scholarships.

2. Graduate from high school during the current year and begin college or university in Texas by the following fall semester.
3. Attend an accredited college or university in Texas, take a 12 hour per term minimum course load, and maintain a minimum 2.5 college grade point average. (Some donors require a higher GPA and more hours per term.)
4. Submit a complete application, including all supplemental materials (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, letter of recommendation, parents' 1040 tax form), prior to the deadline.

Applicants who are graduating under the state of Texas three-year graduation schedule should inform TILF of that fact. Students who are entering the Texas Academy of Math and Science at the University of North Texas in Denton will apply the year they complete their high school requirements at the TAMS.

The awards committee typically meets in June and all applicants will be notified of their status by mid-July of the application year.

If you have any questions, please visit the TILF website at www.tilfoundation.org or contact:

Trudy Richards, Executive Director
PO Box 151027, Austin, TX 78715
512-382-0916
trichards@tilfoundation.org