



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.