



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 to ask short questions and give short answers).	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.

