



## JUDGING CONGRESS

Congress is intended to emulate the Congress of the United States. In theory, the contest combines the best aspects of debate, oratory, and extemporaneous speaking. The key to a successful congress, we believe, 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.

### **POINT ASSIGNMENT**

- ❖ Speakers may receive up to six points per speech.
- ❖ The presiding officer may receive up to six points per clock hour based on his/her ability in that capacity.
- ❖ Rank the students at the end of each session, unless instructed otherwise by the clerk.
- ❖ There can be no ties for placement.
- ❖ Provide as much constructive criticism as possible for each of the student's speeches.

### **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.

### **JUDGING**

The parliamentarian is fixed throughout the sessions. Individual judges, however, will consider the results of one or two sessions, as the needs of the congress and the availability of a judging pool dictates. Completed scoring sheets will be submitted by the parliamentarian and judges to the congressional clerk. **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.

**Judges and the parliamentarian will rank the highest scoring participants 1 through 7 (one being first place) at the end of each session.** All other members of the session shall receive an 8<sup>th</sup> place. Ties in the individual rounds will be broken by the Parliamentarian preference.

**Don't forget to rank the presiding officer as he or she warrants.**