



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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Debate Procedure

1. The Chair will announce the bill number and ask the authors to come forward.
2. The clerk will read the title of the bill.
3. **Authors' Opening Speech:** The Chair will then say: **"The authors will have 3 minutes to divide between their opening and summation speeches."** The Authors must state their names, identify the school they represent, and recognize the chair. At this point their time will begin and they then have the floor to introduce their issue. Authors will be expected to indicate the end of their opening speech by saying **"We wish to yield any remaining time to our summation."** All remaining time will be reserved for the Author's to make their closing points. If three minutes is exceeded, then the Author will be instructed to stop speaking and will not receive time for their summation speech. This speech is considered a pro speech.
4. The Chair will announce how much time remains for the authors' closing.
5. **Technical Questions:** The chair will say **"There will now be __ minutes for technical questions. Does anyone have a technical question?"** A maximum of two (2) minutes will be allotted for delegates to ask questions which can be answered with "Yes," "No," or a factually based answer.
6. **Pro/Con Speeches:** The Chair will say **"The time for technical questions has now elapsed. It is now time for Pro/Con debate. Seeing as the Author's speech was taken as a speech in favor, it is now in order for a speech in opposition. Is there such a speaker on the floor?"** Recognized delegates will be allowed one (1) minute each to speak. Between speeches the chair will state whether the previous speech was taken as a pro, con, or as a question. After the first con speech, the Chair will say **"That was taken as a speech in opposition; it is now time for a speech in favor."** After the following pro speech, the Chair will say **"That was taken as a speech in opposition; it is now time for a speech in favor."** This will alternate until the allotted time has elapsed. There must be at least four (4) speeches [2 pro, 2 con] total (this number includes the author's speech as a pro speech). The authors' speeches are considered the first and last pro speeches, so debate will always begin and end with a con speech. Length of debate and the number of pro and con speeches allowed after the required 2 pro/2 con is at the discretion of the chair, based on time constraints and relevance of debate. For more information on Yielding, Motions, and Effective Speaking please see the [Delegate Debate Guide](#).



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7. **Chair calls "Previous Question":** Once the allotted time is exhausted the Chair will say "Chair calls previous question. The time for pro/con debate has now elapsed. The Author's have __ minutes and __ seconds and are now recognized for their summation." Only the chair may call previous question. This signifies that it is time for the Author to present their summation.

8. **Authors' Summation Speech:** The Author will use whatever time was yielded to their summation speech to make closing remarks and address any points made during debate.

*****Attention*****

At this point the procedure is different for Committees on the first night than it is during Combined Committees and in Chambers on the second day. The rest of this page applies to the first night Committees. The procedure for Chambers and Combined Committees is on the next page. In Committees delegates will rank bills based on five criteria, while in Chambers they will vote on passage of legislation based on merit.

Committees

9. **Rank Bill:** The Chair will now say "We will now rank this bill from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest."

Each school will receive one ranking sheet per committee and those students present will be given a short amount of time, between thirty seconds and one minute, in which they will rank the bill on a scale of one (1) to five (5) with five (5) being the best based on the following categories:

1. Debatability
2. Presentation/Preparation
3. Feasibility
4. Importance to Kentucky
5. Creativity

10. **Proceed to the next bill on the docket.**



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Chambers and Combined Committees

9. Vote on Bill:

- A. After the authors' summation speech, the chair will move on to a vote of "In favor"/"Opposed."**
- B. This is a voice vote by each delegate in the committee or chamber.**
- C. After announcing the results (bill is passed or defeated), the chair slowly raps the gavel twice.**
- D. "Division" may be called by the chair in case of a close vote or it may be called by any delegate between the two (2) gavel raps. If division is called, a hand or standing vote may be taken if the chair chooses to recognize the division.**

If the chair feels that division was called only in protest of the results and that the vote had a clear winner, the chair may override the call of division.

- E. Chairs may vote only in the case of a tie vote.**

10. Proceed to the next bill on the docket.