



Golden Gate Speech Association

The GGSA serves the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, Siskiyou (west of Yreka), Solano (sw of Hwy 12), Sonoma, and Trinity.

www.GGSA.org

STUDENT CONGRESS Instructions for Presiding Officers

<u>SCHEDULE</u> <u>for GGSA Congress 1-3 only</u>	
9:00 – 10:30	Session 1
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:45	Session 3
Sessions may not be adjourned early, and breaks may not be taken.	

- NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Computers, tablets and phones are not permitted during a session of Congress. Presiding officers may keep time on their phone. Other phones should not be out during the round and may be grounds for disqualification. Any student using an electronic device during the round should be reported by the presiding officer to tab immediately following the round.
- PO ASSIGNMENTS-** Presiding officers will be assigned in advance by the Congress Director. Most chambers will have two presiding officers who will preside for ½ session each (45 minutes). The judge(s) in the back will vote for the best presiding officer after each session, and the winner of the majority of sessions will take the gavel.
 - PO Priority Sharing the Session:***

The two presiding officers should work together to run a fair and orderly Student Congress. When you are presiding, reasonable speaking priority should be given to the other PO because she or he can't receive credit for standing time or questions while presiding. ***Presiding officers are allowed 1 speech during the 45 that they are not presiding. Presiding officers are not allowed to speak during the time they are presiding. Any presiding officer that prevents another presiding officer from giving a speech during a session may be disqualified.***
 - PO Priority Single POs:***

If you are the only PO, the rules may be suspended to allow you to speak, but you should not take advantage of this situation. ***Lone presiding officers are allowed to give one speech during each 90 session that they preside.***
- KEEP TO THE TIME SCHEDULE-** Time begins when the first speaker begins a speech. Put the session starting and ending time on the board. The sessions should end 1 ½ hours after the starting time. **Do not adjourn any session early unless told to do so by your judge.** When Congress begins late for Session I, you should adjust the ending time for that session. (When sessions run late, you should have the chamber take a shorter break and begin the next session as close to the scheduled start time as possible.) If, in the third session, all legislation has been debated, rules may be

suspended and an earlier bill or resolution can be debated again because a different judge is hearing the debate. **Do not debate anything but the assigned pieces of legislation.**

4. **YOU MUST USE AND EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING SYSTEM OF PRIORITY IN YOUR HOUSE-** (Presiding officers have priority to give only ONE speech per session.)
 - i. 1st Priority- Representative with fewest speeches (REMEMBER: One cannot be called on to deliver a 2nd speech if someone standing has not given a 1st speech.) Record number of speeches on the seating chart.
 - ii. 2nd Priority- Representative who spoke longest ago is selected to speak (Record recency on a separate sheet of paper, NOT ON THE SEATING CHART.)
 - iii. 3rd Priority- Representatives are selected at random to speak.

Note: Although in the recency system, the number of questions does not determine speaker priority, POs should still keep track of questions on the seating chart in order to distribute questions as evenly as possible.
5. **ADHERE TO THE TIME LIMITS IN REGARD TO SPEECHES-**
 - iv. Speeches- 3 mins
 - v. Cross Examination- 1 min
 - vi. Debate on any bill begins with an affirmative speech followed by a negative. (Have someone in the chamber act as a timer and give time signals. Make sure a digital watch is used.)
6. **BE FAMILIAR WITH THE REQUIRED VOTE ON THE PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS-**

Previous question requires a 2/3 vote, while tabling and un-tabling a bill requires a simple majority.
7. **DO NOT ALLOW THE SUSPENSION OF THE RULES-** Chambers are not allowed to suspend the rules. Bills must be debated in order, and times for cross examination and speeches cannot be altered. Speeches must alternate from aff. to neg.--only the House can possibly skip a cycle, but it should be discouraged.
8. **AMENDMENTS-** Amendments must be submitted in writing to the PO. The PO decides whether or not to read it before the chamber. Please wait 2 affirmative and 2 negative speeches before introducing an amendment. It requires a 1/3 vote to debate an amendment and the author speaks for the amendment. (This speech counts toward priority.) Speakers debate the issue and then vote on the amendment. The amendment requires a majority vote to pass.
9. **AUTHORSHIP-** (Only at Congress #2 and #3.) If debating legislation that was authored by a speaker in your chamber, the author has the right to an authorship speech as the first affirmative speaker regardless of priority. Mark this speech on the seating chart. This right to speak will only apply to the author and not a member of the author's school. The names of the authors are written on the bills and resolutions.
10. **RETURN JUDGE CRITIQUE SHEETS TO STUDENTS AFTER EACH SESSION** – After each session, collect the small critique sheets from the judge and return them to all competitors. (The judges will return their seating charts and ranking sheets to the Congress Director.)
11. **DO NOT LEAVE WITH THE SEATING CHART-** After the 3rd session, give the seating chart to the coach who closes the house.