

Golden Gate Speech Association

Official Student Congress Ballot

Session: I II III
(circle one)

House/Senate # _____ Room #: _____
(circle one)

What is Student Congress? A Student Congress is modeled after the procedure for floor debate in a legislature. It is designed to test a student's ability to speak to an issue in both an extemporaneous and impromptu manner and to reveal the individual's knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Bills and resolutions to be debated today have been determined in advance, and students have had time to prepare to speak on these issues.

What Should I Look for in a Round? Student Congress should be viewed as a process that includes argumentation, analysis, questioning, clash of ideas, and delivery. A thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure should be reflected in each speaker's courtesy and decorum. Judges should evaluate or rank speakers based on the *speaker's overall contribution to the debate in this house.*

Other Important Details... Each session of Congress is ninety minutes long. Time begins with the first speaker. A student presiding officer will run each session. In order to speak or ask a question, a congressperson will be recognized by the presiding officer. All speeches should be delivered from the front of the room. Each speech is limited to three minutes. In addition, each speaker is open for a maximum of one minute of cross-examination. Only notes and prepared material are allowed in delivering speeches. No other visual aids or props are permitted.

RATING: At the end of the session please rank the students **1st** (BEST) through **9th** place and choose the best presiding officer if more than one. Presiding officers may also be ranked in the top 9 if they speak. There are no ties allowed. Since there are so many speakers you are also encouraged to keep careful notes during the round.

Don't forget to assign 3-6 points per speech on the comment sheet and seating chart!

Please use the questions below in mind as you judge the Student Congress speakers.

- **Delivery:** Did student communicate in a persuasive manner? Did student effectively use eye contact. Was student's voice volume and rate of delivery easy to follow? Did student use voice, gesture, and movement to effectively communicate emotions and ideas.
- **Logical Arguments and Analysis:** Were student's arguments convincing and appropriate? Were ideas on issues backed by appropriate supporting evidence? Did student's arguments demonstrate a solid understanding of the legislation?
- **Clash:** Did student directly respond to the issues presented by previous speakers?
- **Knowledge and use of Parliamentary Procedure:** Did student use parliamentary procedure to facilitate debate and further the business of the assembly, not to slow down procedure or unfairly prevent other students from speaking?
- **Questioning:** Were student's questions incisive and knowledgeable? Were questions and answers direct, concise, and to the point?

Best Congress Participant _____

2nd Best Congress Participant: _____

3rd Best Congress Participant: _____

4th Best Congress Participant: _____

5th Best Congress Participant: _____

6th Best Congress Participant: _____

7th Best Congress Participant: _____

8th Best Congress Participant: _____

9th Best Congress Participant: _____

Best Presiding Officer: _____ (If more than 1 presides. *You may also rank presiding officer above if he/she gives a speech*)

Judge's Signature _____ School Affiliation _____

Please write neatly