DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

OVERVIEW

Team members work together to prepare for a debate against a team from another chapter. The teams will be instructed to take either the Pro or Con side of the selected subtopic.

The theme for 2015 is: One-to-one laptops/devices for students in public education

Subtopic 1: Should schools purchase devices (laptops/other) for all students in K-12 education?

Subtopic 2: Is the cost of devices for all K-12 students worth the investment?

Subtopic 3: If one-to-one devices are purchased for K-12 students, how can faculty/staff ensure they will only be used for educational purposes?

The theme for 2016 is: Required Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses for high school students

Subtopic 1: What are the pros and cons of requiring STEM classes for high school students across the nation?

Subtopic 2: Are STEM classes more important than other disciplines/classes (e.g., language arts, history, fine arts) for high school students?

Subtopic 3: Should the successful completion of STEM classes be mandatory for high school graduation?

PURPOSE

The skill of debating is essential for government, business, and technology leaders as our society faces new challenges in areas such as medicine, space exploration, pollution, global warming, economics, manufacturing, and agriculture. Tied to these challenges is the necessity for proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Developing debate and communication skills in students, in conjunction with a focus on topics related to STEM, is an effective way to increase technological literacy.
ELIGIBILITY

Entries are limited to three (3) teams of two (2) members per state.

TIME LIMITS

A. Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes.
B. Each team will be given a two (2)-minute conference break.
C. All research and preparation must be started and completed during the current school year.

ATTIRE

Competition attire, as described in National TSA Dress Code (www.tsaweb.org/Dress-Code), is required for this event.

PROCEDURE

A. Participants research all subtopics as listed in the overview and should be prepared to debate any of the subtopics from both Pro and Con views. All participants will be assigned the same subtopic. A new subtopic may be assigned for the semifinals, and all participants will debate that new subtopic.
B. Pre-debate meeting: Participants report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to receive an assigned debate time, a subtopic, and general directions and information from the judging team. Failure of participants to attend this meeting will result in disqualification. This meeting will be held for both preliminary heats and the semifinals portion of the event. Students should be reminded in this meeting that they may not state their individual or school name in the presence of judges.
C. Each team reports to the preparation room fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled debate time.
D. One (1) minute before opposing teams are instructed to report to the presentation room, each team will be informed of the view (Pro or Con) it will be presenting.
E. Once the teams are informed of the view they are to take, they will be escorted to the presentation room.
F. Order of debate format.
   1. Pro speaker, maximum of three (3) minutes
   2. Con speaker, maximum of three (3) minutes
   3. Conference break, two (2) minutes
   4. Pro rebuttal, maximum of three (3) minutes
5. Con rebuttal, maximum of three (3) minutes

G. The escort will introduce the Pro team by ID number and the team will be instructed to sit to the left side of the podium. The first speaker should sit next to the podium. At this time, participants will present their schedule card and reference summary to the judges.

H. The Con team will be introduced by ID number and will be instructed to sit to the right side of the podium. The first speaker is to sit next to the podium. At this time, participants will present their schedule card and reference summary.

I. When the judges and teams are ready, the Pro speaker will be instructed to move to the podium and begin. Timing starts when the speaker begins. After 2 minutes and 45 seconds, the timer will hold up a 4” x 6” card on which is written “15 seconds.” Penalty points will be deducted when a speaker exceeds the allotted time.

J. When the Pro speaker is finished and has been seated, the Con speaker will move to the podium and begin, according to the same procedure noted above.

K. When the Con speaker is finished and has been seated, the timer will announce a two (2)-minute conference period in which both teams may prepare their rebuttal.

L. At the conclusion of the two (2)-minute conference period, the timer will announce that the conference period is over and the Pro rebuttal speaker will approach the podium. Timing starts when the speaker begins. After 2 minutes and 45 seconds, the timer will hold up a 4” x 6” card on which is written “15 seconds.” Penalty points will be deducted if a speaker exceeds the allotted time.

M. When the Con rebuttal speaker (as in L. above for the Pro rebuttal speaker) is finished and has been seated, the timer will announce to both teams that they may leave the presentation room.

N. Participants will give the judges a one (1)-page list of reference materials used to research the debate subtopics. This reference list must be a word-processed document that can be printed on both sides of a sheet of paper. MLA format must be used in citing resources. A copy of the reference summary is to be made and turned in to the judges each time a team competes.

O. Should there be an odd number of teams entered in this event, one team will debate twice, based on a random drawing. If a team debates twice, that team must again provide to the judges the
Debating Technological Issues

Page that lists reference materials used. The team that debates twice may or may not have to debate both sides of this issue. If the team does debate twice, both debates will be scored and the highest score will be used for placement.

P. If a preliminary heat format is being used, twelve (12) semifinalists will be posted in random order.

Q. Semifinalists will report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to receive an assigned debate time, as well as general directions and information from the judging team.

R. Each team reports to the preparation room at its assigned time.

S. Procedures D — O will be followed to determine the ten (10) finalists.

T. Room set-up:

Pro team                           Podium                           Con team

Judge        Timer        Judge

It is essential that students and advisors routinely check the TSA website (www.tsaweb.org) for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive events. This information is found on the website under Competitions/Updates and Clarification. When students participate in any TSA competitive event, they are responsible for knowing of updates, changes, or clarification related to that event.

REGULATIONS

A. Participants must debate the current year’s selected subtopic, as assigned at the conference.

B. Pre-written notes may be used. Notes must be written on 3” x 5” notecards.

C. Notes may be taken during the debate.

D. A three (3)-ring binder of reference material, as noted on the reference list provided to the judges, may be used during the debate.

E. No audio-visual materials of any form may be used.

F. Participants are not allowed to hear the debates of other teams.
G. No observers or assistants are allowed in the preparation room.

H. No observers are allowed to view the preliminary heats.

I. Observers are allowed in the debate room during the semifinalist debates. No audio or visual recording devices are allowed. No talking or gesturing is permitted. Observers are not allowed to enter or leave during a presentation. There is no applause until the debate is completed.

J. Teams are penalized five (5) points for speaking any amount of time over the allotted time. See the official rating form for time deductions.

K. Each team is required to submit a summary of references (used to prepare for the event) on an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper; both sides of the paper may be used. The event title, the event topic, and a line for the entry number must be printed at the top of the front side of the paper. The reference summary must be word-processed (handwritten is not acceptable). MLA format must be used to cite sources. References for subtopics is to be submitted on one (1) sheet of paper, not a separate sheet for each subtopic. The summary of references must be given to the judges at both preliminary heats and semifinalist rounds. Not having a summary of references will be grounds for a rules violations or disqualification.

EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based upon a team's knowledge of the topic and communication ability (i.e., the use of debate and presentation skills).
STEM INTEGRATION

This event aligns with the STEM educational standards noted below. Please refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS) INTEGRATION

Please refer to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Integration section of this guide for more information.

PRIMARY LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership skills promoted in this event:

- COMMUNICATION — Students will effectively communicate a position related to an argument. Suggested leadership lessons: Fact or Fiction and Put It Together
- CRITICAL THINKING — Students will gather research in order to develop an argument. Suggested leadership lessons: Critical Thinking Tips and Put Yourselves In Their Shoes
- TEAMWORK — Students will work together to compete and share knowledge. Suggested leadership lessons: Teams and Stepping Stones

Additional leadership skills promoted in this event: evaluation, organization, self-esteem

TSA AND CAREERS

This competition connects to one or more of the career areas featured in the TSA AND CAREERS section of this guide. Use The 16 Career Clusters chart and the TSA Competitions and The 16 Career Clusters grid as resources for information about careers.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

- Lobbyist
- Management executive
- Motivational speaker
- Politician
- Public policy specialist
DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Evaluators for preliminary round of debates, two (2) or more and one (1) timekeeper/announcer per heat room; timekeepers may serve as judges

C. Escorts for moving teams from preparation room to presentation/debate room, one (1) per heat room; escorts may not serve as judges

D. Evaluators for semifinal round of debates, two (2) or more and one (1) timekeeper/announcer; if possible, these evaluators should not judge the preliminary round of debates

E. One (1) escort for semifinal round of debates

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator’s notebook, containing:
   1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each evaluator
   2. Official rating forms
   3. List of entries with finalist report
   4. List of personnel
   5. Pens or pencils for personnel
   6. Signs that read “DEBATE in PROGRESS” for all rooms as needed
   7. One (1) stopwatch for each presentation/debate room
   8. One (1) 4” x 6” card with the message “15 seconds” written on the card, one (1) card for each presentation/debate room
   9. Two (2) 3” x 5” cards with Pro written on the card and two (2) 3” x 5” cards with Con written on the card for each presentation room
   10. Copies of schedule cards
   11. Semifinalist list for posting, if necessary
   12. Results envelope

B. Podium for each presentation/debate room

C. One (1) table and two (2) chairs for the Pro side and one (1) table and two (2) chairs for the Con side for each presentation/debate room
D. One (1) table and three (3) chairs for evaluators and timekeeper/timekeeper/announcer for each presentation/debate room; one (1) chair in the back of the room for the escort

E. Chairs for observers during the semifinal round of presentations/debates

F. Three (3) tables and three (3) chairs in the preparation room for event personnel and participants

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Upon arrival at the conference, report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator’s notebook. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough evaluators/assistants have been scheduled.

B. Inspect the areas(s) in which the event is being held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, screens, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

C. Develop a heat schedule, taking into consideration the number of presentation rooms, number of entries and time allotted for the event. Twenty (20) minutes should be allowed for each debate.

D. Develop a semifinalist schedule, taking into account the number of semifinalists and the time allotted for the event. Twenty (20) minutes should be allowed for each semifinalist debate.

E. From the list of subtopics, choose one subtopic that will be used for each round. The subtopic chosen must apply for all teams in the preliminary heats and the semifinalist round. One subtopic may be chosen for the preliminary heats and a different subtopic for the semifinalist round.

F. Gather with the participants at the scheduled time and place noted in the conference program for a pre-debate meeting. At this meeting, take attendance, review rules and procedures, provide directions and information, and announce the assigned subtopic that all participants will debate for the first round. Only one (1) team member needs to attend the meeting when the subtopic is announced. Failure of a team representative to attend this meeting will result in disqualification. The coordinator may:
   1. allow participants to select a presentation/debate time, or
   2. pre-assign times and inform the participants of the schedule

G. One (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with your evaluators/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and
regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

H. For participants who violate the rules, the decision either to deduct 20% of the total possible points or to disqualify the entry must be discussed and verified with the evaluators, event coordinator, and a CRC manager; all must initial either of these actions on the rating form.

I. Begin the event by checking in the participants when they arrive at the preparation room at their scheduled time.

J. When two (2) teams and a presentation room are available, have one (1) team draw one (1) or two (2) schedule cards (one [1] card will have Pro written on it and the other card will have Con written on it). The view a team selects will apply for the entire event. Each team, with the coordinator’s assistance, will complete the remaining information on the card. This card, along with a team’s reference list, will be given to the judges once a team has entered the debate room.

K. Record the view each team is to present on the scheduling sheet.

L. Have the escort take the teams to the presentation room.

M. The escort will announce to the judges the ID number of the Pro team first and then the Con team. Each team will then sit on a designated side of the podium. The judges will need to record each team’s ID number on the judge’s evaluation sheet.

N. The escort should remain in the presentation room until the end of the debate, when s/he will escort each team from the presentation room. This process of escorting teams into and then out of the presentation room for competition will take place until all teams have participated.

O. Should there be an odd number of teams entered in this event (see Procedure O), teams will be randomly selected to determine which team will debate twice. If a team debates twice, its highest score will be used to determine placement.

P. When the timekeeper/announcer has confirmed that the teams and judges are ready to begin, s/he will instruct the Pro speaker to approach the podium and begin.

Q. The timing of each presentation will start when the speaker begins; however, if there are any unreasonable delays, the speaker will be warned by the timer and timing will begin.

R. Timing of the conference break will start once the Con speaker has completed the presentation. The timekeeper will inform the
teams that they are in the conference break and will also inform the teams when the period is over.

S. Once the conference break is over, the Pro rebuttal speaker will approach the podium and begin, followed by the Con rebuttal speaker.

T. When the Con rebuttal speaker is finished, s/he should return to his/her seat. The timekeeper will collect the summary of references from both teams. When the evaluators are ready, the timekeeper will announce to the teams that they are to leave the room and they will be escorted out by the escort.

U. The evaluators will inform the escort when they are ready for a new set of teams so that the escort may return to the preparation room.

V. Following the last team’s presentation, the evaluators will total their scores, making adjustments for time penalties.

W. Secure the evaluators’ signatures on their score sheets.

X. Following the preliminary heats, the judges determine the semifinalists from their particular heats and forward these to the coordinator. The coordinator lists the semifinalists from each heat on a semifinalist list in random order that is submitted to the CRC chairperson for posting. Twelve (12) semifinalists will be posted.

Y. At the time and place stated in the conference program, meet with the semifinalists to review scheduling and procedures.

Z. Follow procedures as above for the semifinalist round of debates.

AA. All communication related to evaluators and participants during the presentation/debate should be handled by the timekeeper.

AB. Evaluators average their scores to determine the ranking of the ten (10) finalists. All ratings by the evaluators should be done independently. Evaluators discuss and break any ties.

AC. Complete and submit the finalist report, which includes a ranking of the ten (10) finalists, and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

AD. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.
### DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

#### SCHEDULE CARD

**Assigned view:** Pro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry number</th>
<th>Debate time</th>
<th>Heat number and room</th>
<th>Comments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Assigned view:** Con

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry number</th>
<th>Debate time</th>
<th>Heat number and room</th>
<th>Comments:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Debating Technological Issues

**Participant/Team ID#  _________________________________**

#### DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

**2015 & 2016 OFFICIAL RATING FORM**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>Minimal performance</th>
<th>Adequate performance</th>
<th>Exemplary performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debate (90 points)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points of argument (X1)</td>
<td>Team does not get the attention of the audience, and/or does not outline points clearly and distinctly.</td>
<td>Team makes an effort to grab the attention of the audience; previewing points are somewhat organized in a logical manner; the speaking is adequate.</td>
<td>Introduction uses an attention getter, clearly states the thesis, and previews main points of the argument; the team is cognizant of the audience; the speaking is fluid, with good enunciation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization (X1)</td>
<td>Ideas may not be focused or developed; the main purpose is not clear; the introduction is undeveloped; main points are difficult to identify; transitions may be needed.</td>
<td>The main idea is evident, but the organizational structure may need to be strengthened; ideas may not be clearly developed or always flow smoothly, and the purpose is not clearly stated; main points are somewhat clear.</td>
<td>Ideas are clearly organized, developed, and supported; the purpose is clear; main points are clear and organized effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic knowledge (X2)</td>
<td>The team does not have a grasp of the information; inaccurate, generalized, or inappropriate supporting material is used; there is an over-dependence on notes.</td>
<td>The team has a partial grasp of the information; supporting material is adequate and the team is at ease.</td>
<td>The team has a clear grasp of information; citations are introduced and attributed accurately; the team demonstrates full knowledge, with explanations and elaboration, of the subject area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery (X2)</td>
<td>Delivery detracts from the message; eye contact may be very limited; presenter may tend to look at the floor, mumble, speak inaudibly, fidget, or read most of the speech; gestures and movements may be jerky or excessive.</td>
<td>Delivery generally seems effective, however, good use of volume, eye contact, vocal control, etc. may not be consistent; some hesitancy may be observed; vocal tone, facial expressions, and/or other nonverbal expressions do not detract from the message.</td>
<td>Delivery is extemporaneous, natural, confident, and enhances the message; posture, eye contact, smooth gestures, facial expressions, volume, pace, etc. indicate confidence, a commitment to the topic, and a willingness to communicate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebuttal (X1)</td>
<td>Rebuttal is unorganized, unclear, and/or incoherent; rebuttal includes no counter to points made from the opposing team.</td>
<td>Rebuttal is somewhat organized, and it creates a mostly logical counter to the opposing team’s points.</td>
<td>Rebuttal is logical, concise, and creative; counter arguments from the opposing team are each incorporated in the rebuttal in a unique and interesting way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice and language (X1)</td>
<td>Language choices may be limited, peppered with slang or jargon, too complex, or too dull; language is questionable or inappropriate for the audience.</td>
<td>Language used is mostly appropriate, respectful or inoffensive, but word choices are not particularly vivid or precise.</td>
<td>Language is familiar to the audience, appropriate for the setting, and free of bias; word choices are vivid and precise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points) or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the far right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an “adequate” score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an “adequate” score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.)
# Debating Technological Issues

## DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES (continued)

### Debate (90 points) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group member participation (X1)</th>
<th>One team member does the majority of the speaking and/or debating on the topic; the other student seems disengaged from the presentation.</th>
<th>Both team members are engaged in the debate, but one student clearly takes the lead while the other student only replies or refutes statements.</th>
<th>Both team members are actively involved in the debate and rebuttals of the topic, sharing responsibility throughout.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| SUBTOTAL (90 points) |

**Time violation:** (a deduction of five points total will be incurred for exceeding the debate time limit). Record the deduction in the space to the right.

**Rules violations:** (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the far right.

Indicate the rule violated: __________

(To arrive at TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary. Check your math twice!) **TOTAL (90 points)**

**Comments:**

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**Evaluator**

Printed name: _____________________________ Signature: _____________________________