## OVERVIEW

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 (STEM). 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.

In this event, 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 a selected subtopic.

The theme (and subtopics) for this event will be posted on the national TSA website under Competitions/Themes and Problems.

## ELIGIBILITY

Entries are limited to three (3) teams of two (2) individuals 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. Five (5) points will be deducted for speaking any amount of time over the allotted time.

C. The LEAP interview will be conducted immediately following each semifinalist debate round and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes (per team).

D. All research and preparation must be started and completed during the current school year.

☑ Teams must be prepared to debate both sides of an issue.

## LEAP LEADERSHIP RESUME/INTERVIEW

A Team LEAP Leadership Resume is required for this event and must be submitted when participants arrive at the event at a designated event time. Semifinalists will respond to interview questions related to their submitted LEAP Resume for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

## ATTIRE

Competition attire, as described in the National TSA Dress Code section of this guide, is required for this event.

## PROCEDURE

A.  Participants research all subtopics 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.  Teams must submit a LEAP Leadership Resume at the pre-debate meeting in order to compete.

D.  Each team reports to the preparation room fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled debate time.

E.  One (1) minute before teams are instructed to report to the presentation room, each team will be informed of the view (Pro or Con) of the issue it will present to the judges.

F.  Once the teams are informed of the view they are to take, they will be escorted to the debate room.

G.  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

H.  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.

I.  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 should sit next to the podium. At this time, participants will present their schedule card and reference summary to the judges.

J.  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 two (2) minutes and forty-five (45) seconds, the timer will hold up a 4" x 6" card that reads "15 seconds." Penalty points will be deducted if a speaker exceeds the allotted time.

K.  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.

L.  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.

M.  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 two (2) minutes and forty-five (45) seconds, the timer will hold up a 4" x 6" card that reads "15 seconds." Penalty points will be deducted if a speaker exceeds the allotted time.

N.  When the Con rebuttal speaker (as in Procedure 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 debate room.

O.  Participants must provide a reference summary to the judges. This summary is a one (1)-page list of resource materials used to research the debate subtopics. The summary 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 must be turned in to the judges each time a team competes or a rules violation deduction will be incurred.

P.  If there is an odd number of teams entered in the event, one team will debate twice, based on a random drawing. If a team

debates twice, that team must again provide the judges with a page that lists the resource materials used. The team that debates twice may or may not have to debate both sides of the issue. If the team does debate twice, both heats will be scored and the highest score will be used for placement.

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

R. 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.

S. Each team reports to the preparation room at its assigned time. The semifinalist LEAP interview will take place immediately following each semifinalist debate round and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes per team.

T. Procedures D – O will be followed to determine the ten (10) finalists.

U.

Room set-up:

| Pro team | Podium | Con team |
|----------|--------|----------|

| Judge | Timer | Judge |
|-------|-------|-------|
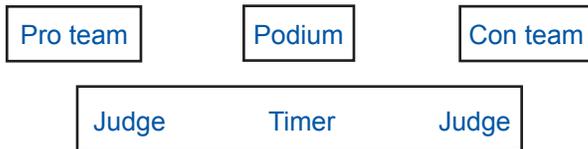
> ✓ Read the General Rules and Regulations section in the front of this guide for information that applies to all of TSA's competitive events.

**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. 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"x5" notecards.

C. Notes may be taken during the debate.

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

E.  No audio-visual materials of any type 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 debate. 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.

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 are 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 result in a rules violation deduction.

L.  LEAP Leadership Resume (see Forms Appendix or TSA website)/Interview — Teams document, in the LEAP leadership resume, the leadership skills that the team has developed and demonstrated while working on this event. Semifinalists will respond to questions about the content of their resume as part of their LEAP interview. The LEAP Leadership Resume/ Interview guidelines and other resources can be found on the TSA website.

### EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based on a team's knowledge of a selected subtopic, the team's communication ability (i.e., the use of debate and presentation skills), and the LEAP requirements. Please refer to the official rating form for more information.

## 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

## 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 Career Clusters* chart and the *TSA Competitions and The 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 debate room, one (1) per heat room; escorts may **not** serve as judges

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

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

## MATERIALS

A.  Coordinator's packet, containing:
    1.  Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each evaluator
    2.  TSA Event Coordinator Report
    3.  List of evaluators/assistants
    4.  Pre-populated flash drives for evaluators
    5.  Signs that read "DEBATE in PROGRESS" for all rooms, as needed
    6.  One (1) stopwatch for each debate room
    7.  A 4" x 6" card with the message "15 seconds" written on the card, one (1) card for each debate room
    8.  Two (2) 3" x 5" cards with "Pro" written on the card; two (2) 3" x 5" cards with "Con" written on the card; and one (1) 3" x 5" card with "2 minutes" written on it for each debate room
    9.  Copies of schedule cards
    10. Results envelope
    11. Envelope for LEAP Leadership Resumes
    12. LEAP Interview Judging Protocol

B.  Podium for each 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 debate room

D. One (1) table and three (3) chairs for evaluators and timekeeper/announcer for each debate room; one (1) chair in the back of the room for the escort

E. Chairs for observers during the semifinalist debate round

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 packet. 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, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

C. Develop a heat schedule, taking into consideration the number of preparation and debate rooms, the number of entries, and the 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. Include an additional ten (10) minutes per round to allow for each team to participate (individually) in the semifinalist LEAP interview immediately following their semifinalist debate (maximum of five [5] minutes per team).

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

F. Gather with the participants at the scheduled time and place noted in the conference program for a pre-event meeting. At this meeting, take attendance, collect LEAP Leadership Resumes, review rules and procedures, provide directions and information, and announce the selected subtopic that all participants will present on in the first round. Teams who do not submit the required team LEAP resume are not permitted to compete. Only one (1) team member needs to attend this meeting. Failure of a team representative to attend this meeting will result in disqualification. The coordinator may:
1. allow participants to select a 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 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.

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 debate 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 summary, will be given to the judges once a team has entered the debate room.

K. Record the view each team is presenting on the scheduling sheet.

L. Have the escort take the teams to the debate 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 debate room until the end of the debate, when s/he will escort each team from the room. This process of escorting teams into and then out of the debate room for competition will take place until all teams have participated.

O. If there is an odd number of teams entered in this event (see Procedure O), teams will be randomly selected to determine the team that 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 debate 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 complete the scoring, making adjustments for time penalties.

W. Following the preliminary heats, evaluators determine twelve (12) semifinalist teams and submit the results to the CRC for posting.

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

Y. Follow procedures as above for the semifinalist round of debates. The semifinalist LEAP interviews will take place immediately following each semifinalist debate and will last a maximum of five (5) minutes per team.

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

AA. Evaluators determine the ranking of the ten (10) finalists, and discuss and break any ties.

AB. Review and submit the finalist results and all items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

AC. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.

# DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES
## SCHEDULE CARD

**Assigned view: Pro**

Entry number _____

Debate time _____

Heat number and room _____

Comments:

# DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES
## SCHEDULE CARD

**Assigned view: Con**

Entry number _____

Debate time _____

Heat number and room _____

Comments:

Participant/Team ID# _____

# DEBATING TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES

## 2017 & 2018 OFFICIAL RATING FORM                    HIGH SCHOOL

### Go/No Go Specifications

Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box. If an item is missing, leave the box blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED. If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

☐ **Completed LEAP Leadership Resume is present.**
☐ **ENTRY NOT EVALUATED**

### Debate (90 points)

| CRITERIA | Minimal performance 1-4 points | Adequate performance 5-8 points | Exemplary performance 9-10 points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 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.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met. | | | |
| **Points of argument** (X1) | Team does not get the attention of the audience, and/or does not outline points clearly. | Team makes an effort to grab the attention of the audience; previewing points are somewhat organized in a logical manner. | Introduction uses an attention getter, clearly states the thesis, and previews main points of the argument; the team is cognizant of the audience. |
| **Organization** (X1) | The main idea may not be focused or developed; the introduction is undeveloped; transitions may be needed. | The main idea is adequately presented, but the organizational structure may need to be strengthened; ideas are generally developed and flow smoothly. | The main idea is clearly presented, well-developed, and firmly supported. |
| **Topic knowledge** (X2) | 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. | The team has a partial grasp of the information; supporting material is adequate and the team is at ease. | 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. |
| **Delivery** (X2) | 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 from notecards; gestures and movements may be jerky or excessive. | Delivery generally seems effective, however, 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. | 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. |
| **Rebuttal** (X1) | Rebuttal is unorganized, unclear, and/or incoherent; rebuttal includes no counter to points made from the opposing team. | Rebuttal is somewhat organized, and it creates a mostly logical counter to the opposing team's points. | Rebuttal is logical, concise, and creative; counter arguments from the opposing team are incorporated in the rebuttal in a unique and interesting way. |
| **Voice and language** (X1) | Language choices may be limited, peppered with slang or jargon, too complex, or too dull; language is questionable or inappropriate for the audience. | Language used is mostly appropriate, respectful, or inoffensive; word choices are adequate. | Language is familiar to the audience, appropriate for the setting, and free of bias; word choices are vivid and precise. |

*Record scores in the column spaces below.*

## Debate (continued) (90 points)

| Group member participation (X1) | One team member does the majority of the speaking and/or debating on the topic; the other student seems disengaged. | Both team members are engaged in the debate, but one student takes the lead while the other student only replies or refutes statements. | Both team members are actively involved in the debate and rebuttals of the topic, sharing responsibility throughout. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **SUBTOTAL (90 points)** | |

Time violation (a deduction of five [5] points total will be incurred for exceeding the debate time limit). Record the deduction in the space to the right.

## Semifinalist LEAP Interview (20 points)

| CRITERIA | Minimal performance 1-4 points | Adequate performance 5-8 points | Exemplary performance 9-10 points | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LEAP Leadership Resume/Interview** See Regulation L and instructions on TSA website (X2) | The team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and/or are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and/or incorporate the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria. | The team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is adequate. | The team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is adequate. | |
| | | | **SUBTOTAL (20 points)** | |

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

Indicate the rule violated: _____

(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.)          **TOTAL (110 points)**

Comments:

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

Evaluator

Printed name: _____          Signature: _____