

College Public Forum Rules

1. Philosophy: Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution. Competitors in this team event advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution (prepared by the College Public Forum committee and distributed via the IE-L). The clash of idea must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non- Public Forum should:

- a. Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis.
- b. Utilize evidence without being driven by it.
- c. Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)
- d. Communicate ideas with civility, clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.

This is not a debate event, per se, and as such, teams do not have prime facie burdens or the burden of rejoinder. Instead, teams are asked to advocate for (pro) or against (con) the ideas and policies represented within the resolution.

Since this is not a debate event, in the traditional sense, teams are prohibited from utilizing plans (formalized comprehensive proposals for implementation), counterplans and kritiks (off-topic arguments). Multiple competitive venues exist for the application of these argumentative strategies.

2. Resolutions: Resolutions will be distributed five times in this year. Topics will be announced on the IE-L.

3. Procedure and order of speeches: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Note: The round begins at the conclusion of the coin flip/sides/positions discussion. Contestants may not leave the room or consult with coaches after the coin flip, which begins the round.

- a. First Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
- b. First Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
- c. Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) 3 minutes
- d. Second Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
- e. Second Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
- f. Crossfire (first question by A2) 3 minutes
- g. Summary – First Speaker – Team A 3 minutes

h. Summary – First Speaker – Team B 3 minutes

i. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team A 3 minutes

j. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team B 3 minutes

k. Prep Time 2 minutes per team

4. Timing: Judges and/or debaters should keep track of speaking time.

5. Plans/Counterplans: In College Public Forum, neither side is permitted to offer a plan nor a counterplan (formalized comprehensive proposal for implementation). Instead, each team should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

6. Oral Critiques: No debate ballot may be turned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. CPF and the ICFL discourage judges from disclosing decisions in preliminary rounds of competition. The ballot serves as a valuable educational tool to the teams and their coaches. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.

7. Judges: The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.

8. Governance: College Public Forum is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Forensics League (ICFL) and all matters not covered in this description will be clarified by the ICFL committee.