

## Public Forum

I. Definition - is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury.

II. The debate should:

- display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis
- utilize evidence but not driven by it
- present a clash of ideas
- counter the arguments of the opponents (rebuttal)
- communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.

III. Uniqueness

- Policy debate focuses on a plan to solve problem(s) posed by the resolution.
- Lincoln Douglas debate focuses on the core value of the resolution.
- Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.

IV. Speaker Order

Coin flip - winner chooses either the pro/con or first/last speaker position.

- First speaker (Team A) = 4 minutes
- First speaker (Team B) = 4 minutes
- Crossfire (1st A asks first question) = 3 minutes
- Second speaker (Team A) = 4 minutes
- Second speaker (Team B) = 4 minutes
- Crossfire (2nd A asks first question) = 3 minutes
- Summary - First speaker (Team A) = 2 minutes
- Summary - First speaker (Team B) = 2 minutes
- Grand crossfire (Team A asks first question) = 3 minutes
- Final Focus - Second speaker (Team A) = 1 minute
- Final Focus - Second speaker (Team B) = 1 minute
- 2 minute prep time per team

V. Pros/Cons

- Can jump in at any time as the topic changes monthly
- Team debate so work is shared
- Short debate & less expensive.

- Only an NFL event.
- Only a few tournaments offer it and competition is limited.
- Must rely on a partner.