

Event Exploration

Supplemental Debate Event Offered at 2010 NFL Nationals

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In the spring of 2010, the NFL Board of Directors approved the creation of the first supplemental debate event for pilot implementation at the 2010 Kansas City National Speech and Debate Tournament.

Crafting a supplemental debate event requires many considerations including time, format, structure, and understandability. After significant discussion and collaboration, a model has been developed that would modify existing rules of Parliamentary Debate to address the needs of a supplemental event at nationals.

The one-on-one debate format will address a topic that changes each round. The debate does not permit published material to be used or consulted during the round but may reference scholarly work in their speeches. Debaters will not read pre-written speeches, briefs, or evidence. Instead, debaters speak impromptu from a few notes that record the arguments the other debater made, as well as outline his/her own main points. Each of these points should be signposted, explained, supported by relevant facts and examples, and given impact. Debaters must learn to think on their feet, adding and elaborating upon arguments while speaking. However, unlike Parliamentary Debate, all time is protected. A speaker may not interrupt another. There is designated cross-examination of the proposition and opposition by the opposing debater immediately following the constructive speeches.

Time Limits

- Each debater is allotted up to two minutes per speech and three speeches.
- All speech time is protected time. A speaker may not interrupt another.

- One minute of mandatory prep time will occur prior to each set of rebuttal speeches, to be used by both debaters at the same time.

Resolutions

- A different resolution for each round will be used. The list of all possible resolutions will be presented to the debaters during supplemental re-registration. The list will include approximately 20 resolutions.
- All resolutions debated will be straight resolutions (meant to be debated literally) in the form of “Be it resolved that...”
- The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated high school student can debate them. They will be phrased in literal language.
- Resolutions to be debated might include:
 - Be it resolved that the Middle East peace process is futile.
 - Be it resolved that the minimum wage in the United States should be reduced.
 - Be it resolved that looting is morally acceptable in times of crisis.

Objective of the Debate

- The proposition debater must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition debater must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition debater’s case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition debater has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner. If the

judge believes the opposition debater has successfully undermined the case for the resolution, he or she will be declared the winner.

During the Debate

- No published materials (dictionaries, magazines, books, etc.), prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters’ use in the debate may be brought into the competition room.
- Debaters may refer to any information that is within the realm of knowledge of liberally educated and informed citizens. Judges will disallow specific information only in the event that no reasonable person could have access to the information: *e.g.*, information that is from the debater’s personal family history. ■

Format • Time Limits

Proposition Constructive.....	2 min
Cross-Examination of Proposition.....	1 min
Opposition Constructive	2 min
Cross-Examination of Opposition.....	1 min
Mandatory Prep Time	1 min
Proposition Rebuttal.....	2 min
Opposition Rebuttal	2 min
Mandatory Prep Time	1 min
Proposition Rebuttal.....	2 min
Opposition Rebuttal	2 min
Total:	16 min