



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE LEGISLATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST



SUBMIT BY FEBRUARY 5, 2025
www.speechanddebate.org/congress-submission



Before submitting your student-written legislation, ask yourself the following questions to make sure your legislation will be considered for the 2025 National Tournament Docket!

Is your legislation a bill, a resolution, or a Constitutional amendment?

If your legislation describes the details of how a policy would be enacted, then it's a bill. If your legislation is an expression of conviction or value belief which urges, requests, or suggests further action, then it is a resolution. If it proposes a formal change to the U.S. Constitution, then it is an amendment. Make sure you've chosen the correct type of legislation. Does the federal government have the power to take the actions the bill or amendment prescribes? If not, consider it for a resolution instead!

Is the idea for your legislation fresh, unique, and timely?

A rehash of previous topics from other forms of debate is generally not considered "fresh" because it would encourage students to use previous research instead of engaging in new research. Does your topic bring a unique perspective to an issue? Has your topic been discussed recently in media sources, or is it a topic that was more important in previous years but not so much today?

Can you locate at least three recent articles in favor of your legislation and three recent articles opposing your legislation? Do those articles come from reputable and well-researched sources?

Is there genuine opportunity for students to debate a point of view that goes against your proposed legislation? If everyone agrees your legislation is a good idea, you may want to reconsider the language of the legislation to make it more debatable. Judges look for clash in debate, so consider including provisions that bring nuance and layers to an issue as you craft your bill, resolution, or amendment.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Does the content allow for a variety of beliefs and ideas to be debated?

We welcome submissions from a variety of ideological and political perspectives, and we ask students to select balanced topics that provide meaningful clash. Our topic and wording committees use the [NSDA Topic Rubric](#) to guide their process. Have you done the same?

Did you use the NSDA-provided template and save your file as a Word document?

When you submit your legislation, it must use the NSDA templates and be saved as a Word document (.docx). Check out the resources on the [submission page](#) for instructions on how to convert your document. Don't hesitate to email info@speechanddebate.org if you need additional assistance!

Is your submission your own original content?

The legislation you submit may be inspired by actual bills or resolutions being considered by the United States Congress, but it should have your own wording and not be a duplicate of something someone else has written. You may get support or edits from your teammates or coach, but only one person may receive recognition for the submission.

Have you had someone copy edit your work?

Make sure that your legislation uses correct grammar, avoids acronyms, has no spelling errors, and is complete. You won't have an opportunity to edit your legislation once it is submitted!

Have you determined which category of legislation is the best fit for your submission?

Each student is welcome to submit one piece of legislation for each of the ten categories of legislation—be sure to select the best fit! Your legislation will be evaluated in comparison to the others in that category.

Do you have all of the information you need to complete your submission?

When you submit your legislation, you'll be asked to provide your coach's name and your coach's email address. You'll also need to know your NSDA ID number and your NSDA District, which both can be found on your [NSDA Account](#) when you log in to the NSDA website.



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