



BEING RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK

Any time you wish to speak during debate, you must do the following:

1. Raise your Placard.
2. If the Chair points at you, you are being recognized to speak
3. Walk to the podium/microphone - you may have to wait in line to speak. When it is your turn, say the following:

_____, representing
Your Full Name

Your School

4. What you say next depends on what you are wishing to do:

Ask a Non-Debatable Technical Question (NDTQ):

...(Ask your question).

Speak during Pro/Con Debate (1-minute speeches):

...I rise to speak in (favor/opposition) of this bill.

Optional - before starting your speech, you can also choose ONE (1) of the following options. If you are yielding to another delegate, they must be with you:

...I rise to speak in (favor/opposition) and reserve my right to yield to the delegate from (School).

...Will the Sponsors yield to a (question/series of questions)? I also reserve my right to...

...speak afterward. *MS or HS

OR

...yield to the delegate beside me. *HS Only

5. When you are done speaking, either yield your time to the Chair, or yield your time to the delegate with you:

I yield my time to the Chair.

OR

I yield my time to the delegate beside me.

NON-DEBATABLE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

An NDTQ is a question that can be answered with yes, no, or statistics (non-debatable). You cannot respond after Sponsors answer your question. Chairs will call questions they deem debatable out of order.

Sample Technical Question

Where will the funding come from?

Sample Debatable Question

Won't this be too expensive?

PRO / CON DEBATE OPTIONS

During Pro/Con Debate, in addition to speaking, you can also do either of the following if you reserve your right:

Ask a Question or Series of Questions

You may use part of your time to ask Sponsors a question(s), any of which can be debatable. Answers by Sponsors are included in your 1 min. If you ask a question(s), your debate time MUST also include a speech either in favor or in opposition (MS KYA cannot yield afterward; HS KYA can yield afterward).

Yielding

You may yield part of your time to one other delegate. You must reserve the right to yield before speaking, and the delegate must be with you.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments are only in order at the end of HS Commonwealth debate. To submit and present an amendment, follow this procedure:

- Correctly complete an Amendment Form, which must be submitted after debate begins on the bill and before the final con speech.
- 1-2 amendments can be heard per bill unless time allows more. If called, you have 30 sec. to present your amendment. Bill Sponsors have 30 sec. to oppose it, or accept it as friendly. If they accept it, the Chair will ask for a 30 sec. opposition speech from the floor.
- After speeches, the Chair will call for a vote on the amendment. A simple majority is required for the amendment to be adopted.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE SCRIPT

It is now time for bill (#). Will the Sponsors of bill (#) come forward?

Bill Sponsors walk to podium and display their placards.

The Clerk will read the title of the bill.

Clerk reads the Bill Title.

The Bill Sponsors have 3 minutes to divide between their opening and closing statements. You may begin when ready.

Bill Sponsors give their Opening Statement.

Seeing that the Sponsors used (time) for their opening statement, they will have (time) for their closing. We will now have a 1-minute* caucus.

Delegates caucus – discuss the bill with fellow delegates.

It is now time for Non-Debatable Technical Questions. Are there any such questions on the floor?

Delegates are recognized to ask NDTQ's.

The time for Non-Debatable Technical Questions has elapsed.

At this point in HS Commonwealth Committees, the Chair will ask Cabinet/Lobbyists to testify if any are present.

We will now move on to Pro-Con debate. Are there speakers wishing to speak in opposition to this bill?

The Chair selects speakers in opposition from those who raise their placards. They line up in front of the room.

Are there speakers wishing to speak in favor of this bill?

The Chair selects speakers in favor from those who raise their placards. They also line up in front of the room.

Seeing as the Bill Sponsors' opening was taken as a speech in favor, it is now time for a speech in opposition.

The first speaker in opposition has 1 minute to speak.

Seeing as that was an opposition speech, it is time for a speech in favor.

The first speaker in favor has 1 minute to speak.

The Chair alternates between calling 1-min. speeches in opposition and in favor, until the final opposition speech.

After the final opposition speech, HS Commonwealth debate moves to Amendment Procedure, and then Chair calls previous question. In all other debate, there are no amendments.

Chair calls previous question.

At this point in HS Commonwealth Committees, the Chair will ask for any Cabinet/Lobbyists who have yet to testify.

The Sponsors have (time) for their closing. You may begin when ready.

Bill Sponsors give their Closing Statement.

It is now time to (rank/vote on) this bill.

During Committees, the Chair will call a 30-second caucus* for delegations to come to a consensus on ranking the bill.

During House/Senate Chamber debate, the Chair will proceed directly to a vote on the bill.

It is time to vote on bill (#). Doorkeeper, please seal the chamber. All those in favor, please raise your placard and say Aye (Counts). All opposed, please raise your placard and say Nay (Counts).

It is the decision of the Chair that bill (#) has been (passed/defeated). (Chair raps gavel once). And it has. (Chair raps gavel twice).

*Note: Caucus times are subject to change according to pace of debate.