



Texas Forensic Association

Constitutional Amendment Form

The following must be provided before your proposal will be accepted by the Executive Committee.

Name: TFA Executive Council

School: ____ N/A _____

Region: ____ N/A _____

Email address: juhler@eanesisd.net

Rationale for Amendment: The TFA EC decided to pilot these rules at the beginning of the 2019-2020 competitive TFA IQT season. Many schools used these rules at their IQTs in August and September. Passing this amendment would make these the normal rules for Public Forum Debate moving forward. Most tournaments outside of Texas that our TFA members compete at during the year are using these new rules, and the NSDA has decided to implement these rules at the district and national tournament levels.

Section of the Constitution where Change occurs:

- ____ Constitution
- ____ ByLaws
- ____ Code of Professional Standards
- Standing Rules: Competition Event Guide**
- ____ Standing Rules: IQT Operations Manual
- ____ Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

Page number of change: pg. 47 (TFA Const. updated 9/9/19)

Select One of the Following: Add Language Delete Language Amend Language

Implementation Time Frame: Immediately upon passage

Proposed Change(s) *(List the change/add here. Changes should include any language you are replacing from the existing constitution along with the proposed new language.)*

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by speaker A1 to B1)	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by speaker A2 to B2)	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes

Prep Time

2 minutes per team

Replace: “Summary - First Speaker - Team A 2 minutes” with “**Summary - First Speaker - Team A 3 minutes**” and “Summary - First Speaker - Team B 2 minutes” with “**Summary - First Speaker - Team B 3 minutes**” and “*Prep Time 2 minutes per team*” with “**Prep Time 3 minutes per team.**”

Also, below the timing chart, add the following:

“At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute ‘Grand Crossfire’ in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. The speakers from each team will continue to ask and answer questions. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully to opponents’ questions and answers.”

And under “Evidence Rules” under Competition Events Guide add as number 5 under “Required Documentation”:

“If paraphrasing is used in a public forum debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common knowledge. Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept. For example, if a public forum debater references a specific theory by a specific author, the debater must also be able to provide an original source as well as the specific text from the original source which is being paraphrased. If a debater were to reference social contract theory in general, that would not be an authoritative source that would require citation. However, if the debater references ‘John Locke’s Social Contract,’ evidence would need to be available.”