

Helpful Student Congress Terms

Representative - Refers to the individual student competitors.

Presiding Officer (PO) – One who facilitates the round using parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order.

House – The entire group of competitors

Bill - Legislation that is being voted on to become law. Bills can be either federal or state level legislation.

Resolution - An idea that a representative wants the house to adopt. It is not a law that makes something clearly legal or illegal. A Resolution might be used for something like declaring a new national or state holiday.

Calendar - The list of bills that will be debated each session.

Well - The podium at which representatives stand to give speeches.

Floor - when a representative has the full attention of the house to speak (also refers to the area where the house meets, where its members speak, and where it conducts its business).

Amendment - a specific change to an item of legislation, explaining exactly which words it modifies, and not changing the intent of the legislation itself.

Precedence - standard rule in most debate leagues which requires the presiding officer to choose speakers who have spoken least (or not at all). The only exception to precedence is when a speaker has authorship privileges to legislation when it is introduced for debate. In those cases, the presiding officer must recognize the author first. If no author is present, selecting a sponsor is based on precedence.

Recency - is where the presiding officer not only employs precedence, but also selects speakers based on who has spoken least recently or earliest.