

WELCOME!!



Tips

- Practice and learn from your mistakes.
- Treat your opponent and audience with respect, ALWAYS.
- Debating is not about convincing your opponent that they are wrong. It is about convincing your audience that your position is much more logical than your opponent's.
- Do not use word-for-word arguments. That would be called nitpicking, and that will confuse the audience of your overall point.
- Do not use morality as an argument either. Your opponent or your own morals will not match the morals of audience as a whole.
- Make sure everybody can relate to and understand your argument. Using big words to enhance your argument does not make you appear smarter. It will just make less people understand you. Do not be afraid to use metaphors or everyday events to prove your point. It should be fine as long as you can explain how they relate to the debate.
- Do not excessively repeat your statements. If your statement did not get through to your audience, it is because you didn't explain it well enough - not because they couldn't hear it. If you do repeat your statements, make sure you can convince the crowd why it was worth bringing up a second time.
- There are a few websites online, which serve as a good practicing ground to perfect your arguments, such as OpenDebate, ConvinceMe, and Volconvo.
- Take your most important point you wish to prove and back it up with as many arguments as you can. Paint your audience "the big picture". If you spend your time proving several points, that would mean less substance would go into each of them. Also, it gives your opponent more to work with, and at times it can make your argument seem contradictory. Take one big idea and stick with it throughout the whole debate.
- If your debating style is not working, try a new one. As said by Einstein, insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result.
- If you are debating on a team, be careful not to make any arguments which will contradict your teammate's argument, or otherwise place a burden on them.
- Do not ask "what if" questions. That's an ancient debate tactic called baiting. And most debaters do not fall for the bait.
- Learn from your wins and losses.

Warnings

- Make sure all of your presented facts are correct.
- Do not only provoke debates, AT ALL. Your arguments only hold merit if your opponent is willing to debate, and the audience is willing to listen. Which means, you should not go into public debates, and start random debates with strangers. They most likely will not know you are just trying to debate for sport, and will take it as a personal attack. If you do wish to debate, join a debate club.
- Avoid using profanities or any other offensive words. They will not prove your points. They will only distract and offend the audience.

Name _____

Date _____
Model Congress**Parliamentary procedure of UMC**

Although there are various forms of parliamentary procedure, UMC has adopted these rules as their official parliamentary procedures format.

Motion	What it means/what it does	When to say it
"Motion to suspend the rules!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to sponsor a bill * A delegate would like to end the debate after sponsor, primary op, and general debater have spoken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * AGC asks for motions to suspend the rules. * When you'd like to end the debate.
"Motion to sponsor bill number _____ whose preamble reads, _____"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to sponsor a bill and make sure it gets debated. * This is a great way to show off your skills or expertise on a subject you like. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After the AGC tells you, "On suspension."
Raising your hand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * You are voting on a motion, answering to a poll, or to be recognized by the GC or AGC during a time of non-debate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After the AGC says, "please signify by raising an appendage."
Raising your arm with your hand in the shape of an "O"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like the speaker to open him/herself up to questioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * While the speaker on the floor is speaking and they have declared themselves "closed."
"Point of inquiry"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to ask the speaker a question related to the debate, using the third-person form. i.e.: "Does the speaker feel that _____" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After you are called on by an exec board member who will say "On inquiry, __ (name) ____."
"Point of query"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to ask the speaker a series of three related questions in rapid succession, also using the third-person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After you are called on by an exec board member who will say "On query, __ (name) ____."
"Point of personal privilege"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to do something that is NOT related to debate. i.e., <i>make a call go to the bathroom, leave the chambers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When you would like to do something that is not related to the debate.
"Permission to leave the chambers"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate has asked for a personal privilege and would like to leave the room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When the AGC has "granted" you this point.
"Point of order"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A delegate would like to point out an error in debating format, time, or exec board actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When someone makes an error in parliamentary procedure rules

“Point of information”	* A delegate would like information about the current debate that is going on. <i>i.e., timing, sections of the bill, current speakers’ representation.</i>	* When you don’t know how much time a speaker has left, if they are primary op or sponsor, or if a section of the bill is misinterpreted.
“Permission to poll”	* The current speaker would like to poll the delegation to help drive a point.	* When you as the speaker would like to make a point using a poll.
“Permission to quote from the bill”	* The current speaker would like to make a point using the direct language from the bill. Note: Sponsor and Primary OP may NOT quote from the body of the bill; only the preamble, with permission.	* When you as the speaker in GENERAL DEBATE ONLY would like to quote from any section of bill.
“Permission to quote from the preamble”	* The current speaker would like to reiterate the preamble for effect, or to drive a point.	* When you are the Sponsor or the Primary Op., and you would like to quote from the bill.

1. A sponsor of the bill is allowed 6 minutes to speak in support of the bill, or may waive his/her right to speak if he/she would like to become the primary oppositioner, or “Primary Op.”.
2. Primary Op. receives 5 minutes to speak.
3. General debate follows, where a speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to express their view on the debate

Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

Seaford/Tri-D Model Congress

1. **Adjourn:** A member of the body may call for adjournment of the session. It requires a second and a 2/3 majority to pass, however, its recognition is subject to the discretion of the Chair.
2. **Recess:** A member may call for a recess of any chamber or committee. The length and reason for recess must be specified in the motion. This motion requires a second and a 2/3 majority to pass, however, its recognition is subject to the discretion of the Chair.
3. **Point of Privilege:** A member may request at any time that the Chair act to prevent the rights and privileges of a member of the chamber from infringement. This point is also in order to request permission from the Chair to exercise certain rights, such as leaving the chamber, re-entering the chamber, approaching the Chair, opening/closing windows, protesting rude behavior, etc
4. **Motion to Suspend the Rules:** A member may request the rules of the chamber be suspended or altered to attain a specific result. The purpose of suspending the rules must be specified when the motion is made. This motion may be used to call for an informal session to discuss a certain matter, grant an outside person speaking rights in committee, limit/extend debate, change the orders of the day, etc. This motion requires a second and a 2/3 majority to pass. This motion is not debatable.
5. **Point of Order:** A member may bring a breach of parliamentary procedure to the attention of the Chair. This point need not be raised for the Chair to take disciplinary action.
6. **Point of Information:** A member may address a single question to the Chair, providing it is unrelated to the subject matter of the current debate, generally to acquire parliamentary information.
7. **Table:** A member, at any time after the legislation has been properly moved but not between speakers for and against in structured debate, may request that the main motion being debated and all subsidiary motions relating to it be placed on the table or removed from said table. The effect of the motion to table is to remove the affected motion from the Order of Business but still allow it to be retaken pending a majority vote on a motion to Remove from the Table. This motion requires a second and a simple majority to pass. It is not debatable.
8. **Move to the Previous Question:** A member, during general debate may request that debate on the pending question be terminated and brought immediately to a vote. If passed, an immediate vote on the question will be taken. This motion requires a second and a 2/3 majority to pass. This motion is not debatable.
9. **Point of Inquiry:** A member may address a single question through the Chair to a speaker. The question may not be prefaced by any other information unless specific permission is given to do so by the Chair. The proper form to request permission to preface is to state when recognized, "Permission to preface."
10. **Point of Query:** A member may address two or more related questions through the Chair to the speaker. After recognizing the speaker, the Chair will ask, "Upon how many points do you rise?" Approval is at the Chair's discretion. These questions must be directly related and separated by, and contingent upon, the response of the speaker.

Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance

<u>To Do This</u>	<u>You Say This</u>	<u>Interrupt Speaker?</u>	<u>Second Needed?</u>	<u>Motion Debatable?</u>	<u>Motion Amendable?</u>	<u>Vote Required?</u>
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until...."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room, temp., etc.	"Point of personal privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this meeting until...."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have something studied further	"I move that this motion be amended by...."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by...."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduces business (A primary motion)	"I move that...."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
"Object to procedure or to a personal affront"	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes, if urgent	No	No	No	None
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	"I call for division of the house"	No	No	No	No	2/3
Object to considering an undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question"	No	No	No	No	2/3
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to...."	Yes	Yes	Yes, if original motion is debatable	No	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider...."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Object on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority