The Center for Democracy in Deaf America

Youth Debate Bowl
for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Rules and Guidelines
2021-2022
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1. INTRODUCTION
The Youth Debate Bowl is an annual hybrid competition sponsored by Gallaudet University through its Youth Programs office and the Center for Democracy for Deaf America (CDDA). The number of events in this competition will ultimately depend on how many students participate in the qualifyings. This Rules and Guidelines booklet governs the Youth Debate Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (hereafter Youth Debate Bowl). This is the second year of the Youth Debate Bowl competition.

2. OBJECTIVES
The purpose of the Youth Debate Bowl is to foster critical thinking and public speaking skills; healthy democratic skills and habits; promote a spirit of academic competition and good sportsmanship; and encourage social opportunities and collegiality among students.

3. ELIGIBILITY
3A. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY
The Youth Debate Bowl is open to all deaf and hard of hearing students in middle school and high school. Individuals may come from residential schools, day schools, mainstream programs, homeschooling programs, or any other type of educational program.

3B. INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY
All Youth Debate Bowl participants must be deaf or hard of hearing. The Youth Programs office and CCDA reserves the right to request verification from a school official or an audiologist of a participant’s hearing status.

High school participants must take all their courses at the ninth grade level or above. Middle school participants are limited to those in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade levels.

High school participants may take college courses, but these courses must not constitute more than 50 percent of the student’s total course load. Students taking more than 50 percent of their courses in college or in high school-based concurrent enrollment programs are not eligible for the Youth Debate Bowl competition. Middle school participants may take high school courses, but these courses must not constitute more than 50 percent of the student’s total course load.

A student’s eligibility for the Youth Debate Bowl is limited to a total of four years in high school and three years in middle school. If a student attends high school for five years, that student may participate in the Youth Debate Bowl for only four of the five years. Years of participation need not be consecutive. If a student attends middle school for four years, that
student may participate in the Youth Debate Bowl for only three of the four years. Years of participation need not be consecutive.

4. Youth Debate Bowl SCHEDULE

For the Spring 2022 Youth Debate Bowl, the schedule of the events are as follows:

We will hold Youth Debate Bowl orientation sessions on Tuesday, November 2nd at 7pm EST and Wednesday, November 17 at 9pm EST. Attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged for those who are interested in participating. Sign up here if you are interested in attending one of the orientation sessions: https://forms.gle/BG28Me1Xggum5PkJR9

We will accept qualifying submissions via https://apply.gallaudet.edu/register/DebateBowl no later than midnight EST on January 14th, 2022.

If needed, the quarterfinals will be held between February 14th, 2022 and February 18th, 2022.

The semifinals will be held between February 28th, 2022 and March 4th, 2022.

The Youth Debate Bowl finals for middle school students will be held between May 14th, 2022 and May 17th, 2022.

The Youth Debate Bowl finals for high school students will be held between May 20th, 2022 and May 23rd, 2022.

5. REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS

Every fall, the Youth Programs office will provide information about registration to schools, programs, and individuals. Registration takes place online through the Youth Programs website. We are accepting an unlimited number of participants for the qualifying portion of the Youth Debate Bowl. There is no registration fee for the Youth Debate Bowl.

The Youth Programs and CDDA offices will send each registered individual an email message acknowledging registration. All follow-up communication will be done via email.
6. COMPETITION FORMAT

The **qualifying** stage will consist of a 3 to 5-minute video of the student doing a persuasive speech on these following questions:

For high school students, the question is: “Should deaf people be allowed to serve in the military?”

For middle school students, the question is: “Should kids under the age of 14 be allowed to have social media?”

The **qualifying stage** will consist of all participating students submitting their 3 to 5 minute videos. Judges will select the top four to eight (4-8) students from both high school and middle school age groups based on the rubric on pages 6 and 7.

The **quarterfinals, if needed**, will consist of the top 8 students in the high school group and the top 8 students in the middle school group. The **semifinals** stage will then consist of the top 4 students in the high school group and the top 4 students in the middle school group.

The **Finals** stage will consist of a head to head matchup between the final two high school debaters and the final two middle school debaters in-person at Gallaudet University in mid-May 2022. We will also show this event live on Facebook.
Making a Decision in the Great Communicator Debate

The Great Communicator Debate is an individual event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. A central tenet of the debate is that the clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge,” i.e., a member of the American Jury.

A Great Communicator Debate should:

- Display solid logic, reasoning, and analysis
- Utilize evidence but not be driven by it
- Present a clash of ideas
- Counter the arguments of the opponents (rebuttal)
- Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and civility

In making a decision, a judge should be as objective as possible. Judges should adjudicate the round as it is debated, not as they personally feel. Judges should not disclose their preferences.

1. Procedure and Order/Time Limits of Speeches:
   a. The Affirmative will always speak first. During the Crossfire, the Affirmative will ask the first question.
   b. Each side receives 2 minutes of prep time which can be used at any point during the debate. When one side asks to use their prep time, the opposing side may also use the time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3 minutes</th>
<th>Opening Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFFIRMATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFFIRMATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>Rebuttal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>Rebuttal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSFIRE</td>
<td>1.5 minutes</td>
<td>“Pose questions to each side”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODERATOR</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>“Pose questions to each side”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFFIRMATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>Closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>Closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DEBATE TIME</td>
<td>24 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FEEDBACK &amp; COMMENTS</td>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP TIME</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
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*Like a presidential debate, the moderator will at this point have an opportunity to pose a question to each debater. In general, this should be to clarify or help the competitor expand on a point from earlier.

2. Timing: Timekeepers are optional but not required. Debaters may time for themselves and for their opponent.

3. Plans/Counterplans: Similar to Public Forum Debate, a plan or counterplan is a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro nor the con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan.

4. Closing: No new arguments may be introduced in the Closing; however, debaters may include new evidence to support prior arguments.
PERSUASIVE SPEECH EVALUATION

Name: ________________________________

+ = excellent, \( \checkmark \) = good, \( \checkmark \) = adequate, \( \checkmark \) = flawed, - = poor/missing Note: The percentages here are guidelines. All these categories are mutually dependent.

Arrangement (20%) ____ The speaker clearly and effectively introduced the topic and explained its importance and relevance ____ The speaker clearly and effectively previewed the argument and main points in the introduction and reviewed them in the conclusion ____ The speaker highlighted the structure of the speech and made it easy to follow with artful transitions ____ The main points and the subpoints adhered to the principles of coordination, subordination, and discreteness ____ The speaker arranged the main points appropriately to persuade an oppositional audience ________

Delivery (20%) ____ The speaker used notes minimally and engaged the audience ____ The speaker spoke at a pace that contributed to the meaning and rhythm of the speech ____ The speaker moved and gestured in a natural way that contributed to speech ____ The speaker spoke confidently and with appropriate projection for the space ____ In general, the delivery contributed to the speaker's ethos and persuasiveness ______

Invention and style (50%) ____ The speaker identified and responded to the most relevant and pressing concerns of the opposition ____ The speaker appealed effectively to those areas where the audience could be moved ____ The speaker effectively used a variety of proofs designed to persuade an oppositional audience ____ The speaker effectively used a variety of supporting materials that would be judged as credible by an oppositional audience ____ The speaker cited supporting material effectively and appropriately ____ The speaker used language that increased the persuasiveness of the argument ____ The speaker used language that highlighted shared values and did not alienate or offend the oppositional audience ______

Overall (10%) ____ The speaker addressed a controversial public issue ____ The speaker's argument was appropriate for the time constraints and the constraints of the assignment ______

Additional Comments:

Time: _________3-5 min Time Penalty (if any): _________ Grade for Speech: _________
7. COACHES

Although we encourage students to have coaches, it is NOT a requirement.

The Coach’s role is to:

- Help them register for the individual competitions
- Prepare, support, and advise them before and after the competitions

Coaches will not be allowed to be a part of the Zoom meetings and will only be able to follow along via the Facebook live stream. If the finals are held in person, coaches are allowed to be present but they cannot coach during the debate itself.

8. PLAYERS’ ATTIRE AND BACKGROUND

All individual participants who participate in the Youth Debate Bowl shall keep in mind that they represent their school and/or themselves at all times, and be conscious of how they present themselves to other Youth Debate Bowl participants and the general public since the events will be live streamed. As such, all Finals participants shall wear appropriate apparel during the live stream. At a minimum, their shirts shall include the school/program name OR be a solid color without any distracting prints or information on the shirt.

For the qualifying submission and the quarterfinals/semifinals, each individual’s background should be a solid colored (any color) wall with the camera directed towards the person and the solid color wall in the background.

Before the live stream of each debate starts, the Youth Programs office and/or CDDA reserves the right to request that an individual change to appropriate attire.

9. ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS/INTERPRETERS

Advance notification of all accessibility accommodations is required at the time of registration to allow appropriate accommodations to be made. We cannot accommodate last-minute requests and will only accept requests that are made at least two weeks prior to the competition that the participant plans to participate in.

Interpreters: Students may request interpreters. Although we encourage students to debate in American Sign Language (ASL), it is NOT required.
Vision and Perception: A player may request accommodations for a vision or perceptual impairment; for example, the need for a font style, size, or color change, or a background color or intensity change. If samples of our questions or Powerpoints are needed to determine if a vision-related accommodation request is needed, please contact us at youthprograms@gallaudet.edu.

All other situations requiring special accommodations should be brought to the attention of the Youth Programs office at least one week prior to the competition in which the participant plans to enter. We cannot guarantee that last-minute requests will be accommodated.

10. RULES DURING COMPETITION

For the qualifying submissions:

a. We ask that each player use one (1) electronic device to record themselves. We will also allow one other additional device (smartphone, tablet, or another tablet) in order to have notes.
b. There should be no other person present in the room at the time of the video recording.
d. The time limit for the qualifying video is three to five minutes.
e. All entries must be submitted through video format via a YouTube link and will be included when submitting a registration form.
f. If filming using a phone, videos must be in landscape mode, not in portrait mode. See Appendix B for a visual.
h. Judges must be able to see the signer from the torso (hip level) up to a few inches above the head.
i. Special effects and any kinds of editing are not allowed. The video must be non-stop from start to finish.

All entries must be submitted through video format via a YouTube link. See Appendix A on how to create a YouTube link.

For the quarterfinals and semifinals stages:

a. We ask that each player use one (1) computer or laptop to connect with Zoom. For this stage, there is no need for an additional device. We reserve the right to verify that all other devices have been removed.
b. There should be no other person present in the room at the time of the debate.
c. All parts of the debate will be presented through ASL or verbally in English. There will be varying time limits for each stage of the debate as shown earlier.
d. Prepared notes can be used but please keep in mind that judges will score based on delivery, preparedness, and organization.
e. Players must finish before the timer runs out for each portion of the debate.

For the finals stage, the same rules apply from above only the competition will be done in person.

11. Youth Debate Bowl Propositions

The following are the propositions for the Youth Debate Bowl competition (quarterfinals through finals). Propositions are a statement that debaters will either agree or disagree with. Before each round, students will be informed whether they will argue in the affirmative (for) or negative (against).

For high school students:

Resolved: Deaf people should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military.

For middle school students:

Resolved: Social media sites should be restricted to users aged 14 and over.

12. COMPETITION STANDINGS

After the qualifying videos submission period has ended, we will announce who advances in an email to participants. For the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, we will announce the results at the end of each debate.

The winner of the semifinal rounds for both middle school and high school divisions will advance to the finals at Gallaudet. The finalists will earn an all-expenses-paid trip for themselves and one coach/chaperone. This includes lodging, transportation during the competition, and all meals during the designated competition period (from dinner on arrival day to breakfast on departure day). Any meals while in transit and before or after the competition period are the individual’s responsibility. Gallaudet will also cover transportation to/from the schools and Washington, D.C. for the individuals participating in the national competition. Any additional people accompanying the individual (other than the coach or chaperone) must travel and be accommodated at the school’s expense.
13. SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

Appropriate sportsmanship, decorum, and professional behavior is expected from all individuals participating in the Youth Debate Bowl.

Coaches and their schools are responsible for the behavior of individual debaters. During the Finals @ Gallaudet, Gallaudet University will not be responsible for any damage, injuries, vandalism, or other liabilities caused by participants. All debaters and coaches are expected to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with law. Underage drinking, use of illegal drugs or any other type of illegal activity will not be tolerated. A list of infractions and consequences is detailed in the Participation Contract form that each player and his or her parents or guardian reads and signs before the Debate Finals at Gallaudet.

The Youth Programs office reserves the right to determine appropriate consequences for any violations committed by a debater.

14. COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Communication devices may not be used in the Zoom call and in-person at any time by the players. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, notebook computers, or any other device. Their use may jeopardize the fairness and integrity of the Youth Debate Bowl competition. Players should leave any additional devices in a different room before the start of each event. Earbuds or headphones connecting a player to a computer in order to hear the ASL to voice interpreter (if applicable) will be allowed.

15. AWARDS

In addition to the free transportation, meals, and lodging for the middle and high school finalists, we will recognize the top four finishers in both age groups.

For high school students, the Amazon gift card prizes for each event will be:
1st place- $150
2nd place- $100
Top 4 finisher- $50

For middle school students, the Amazon gift card prizes for each event will be:
1st place- $150
2nd place- $100
Top 4 finisher- $50
16. INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

If the Youth Programs office finds out after the competition that a player has violated the Participation Contract during the competition period, it reserves the right to suspend the player from the following year’s competition if the violation is deemed serious enough.

CHANGES TO THE RULES AND GUIDELINES

These Rules and Guidelines are subject to change by Youth Programs and Center for Democracy in Deaf America staff as necessary to maintain a fair and enjoyable competition. In-season changes will be kept to an absolute minimum.
Appendix A:

Steps to create YouTube link for your ASL submission(s):

Step One:

Go to www.youtube.com and click on “Upload” button to upload your video.

Step Two:

Change the listing from “Public” to “Unlisted”.

**Step Three:**

Click on the arrow icon to upload your video, then wait until youtube.com notify you that your video has been successfully uploaded.

**Step Four:**

Copy the link as shown while the video is processing, and send the link to us.
Appendix B: