

What is POing?

Before the round begins, the Presiding Officer or PO is elected to help the debate run smoothly! The PO doesn't actually debate in the round. They run it by choosing speakers, picking questioners, managing recency, and accepting motions!

Nominating a Docket

The round needs to vote on a docket, the order in which the bills are debated. To establish a docket, make a motion to open the floor for docket nominations! Senators offer their own docket and legislation order. Write the bills down for each, and then ask the round to vote on each one. The chamber uses the docket with the most votes.

Speeches & Questions

Now, it's time for speeches. Speeches are alternating order: an affirmation speech, then a negation speech, and so on. The first aff and neg both get 2 minutes of questioning. After that, each speech gets 1 minute of questioning. Picking speakers and questioners uses a concept known as recency!

Understanding Recency

You might be asking yourself: What's the sheet used for? The most important duty of the PO is to choose speakers and questioners fairly. POs must recognize questions and speeches based on recency and precedence. Here's what you need to understand:

- When you're calling for a speech/question, if a speaker has given a certain amount of speeches and another speaker has given less speeches or questions, pick the speaker who has given less.
- If more than 2 speakers stand up, figure out who has given the least amount of speeches or questions and choose them.
- If two speakers have given the same amount of speeches/questions, check who has given the first speech/question earlier and choose them.
- Ex. If John stood up for the 1st speech in the debate and Jack gave the 2nd speech, when both stand up, choose John first since he has RECENCY!
- This concept applies to questioning as well!

Duties of the PO

- Picking and choosing speakers/questioners fairly
- Timing speeches and time signals with gavel
- Establish a docket to debate on
- Recognize and process motions
- Count votes for and against legislation

Becoming a PO

To become a PO, you need to be elected by your chamber. When the parliamentarian or pro tempore asks for PO nominations, ask a fellow senator to nominate you. If more than one person is nominated, an election will be held. You may give a 30 second speech explaining why you should be elected.

Ending the Debate

Once everyone has spoken, ask for a motion to move to previous question. Senators will now vote on the piece of legislation that has been debated. To pass, bills and resolutions need a simple majority. The PO breaks any ties. If there are more bills left, then ask for a recess. If not, adjourn and end the round!

Using the Sheet

How do I track who gave the first speech and who has precedence? It's simple! Use the sheet on the other side of this paper!

Speeches

Enter all the names of the competitors in the competitor column of the sheet. This is typically ordered randomly! Every time one person stands up for a speech, list the corresponding number when they spoke in round.

Ex. John gave the seventh speech in round, and it was his first round. **Put a "7" in the box right next to John's name, in the 1st speech column.** When everyone is now giving the second speech, John would be seventh in the order of recency, meaning if any of the six people stand, they would get chosen first.

Questioners

Apply the same methods to cross examination.

Precedence Sheet

(track their speeches!)

[illegible]