



Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of College Public Forum and Butler University it is my pleasure to invite you to the 2nd Consecutive College Public Forum National Tournament on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. Our hosts, Janis Crawford and Mae Pierce as well myself and Dr. Marty Birkholt of Creighton University hope you can join us for this prestigious event.

The topic for the National Tournament is:

Resolved: Congress should extend the Bush tax cuts.

You will find all of the necessary tournament information enclosed in this invitation, including a tournament schedule, event rules, lodging and entry information. We look forward to seeing you here in Indianapolis next week.

If you have questions about the tournament please contact Dan West at 740-593-9962 or email westd1@ohio.edu.

Respectfully,

Dan West
Director of Forensics
Ohio University
Westd1@ohio.edu
740-569-9962

Dr. Marty Birkholt
Tournament Director
Director of Debate
Creighton University

Janis Crawford
Director of Forensics
Butler University

Mae Pierce
Assistant Coach
Butler University

Tournament Information

Events: One division of College Public Forum will be held. We will utilize the topic for the national tournament: Resolved: That the United States should no longer be the policeman of the world.

Entry Deadline: The deadline for all entries will be Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Confirmations will be sent out upon receipt of entries. Full entry lists will be made available on Wednesday, February 22 at Noon.

Judges: Each school is required to provide one for each team entered. Uncovered judges are available at a cost of \$100. Dropped judges the day of the tournament will incur a \$100 nuisance charge in addition to uncovered judging fees.

Fees: Entry fees are \$75 per team and include a continental breakfast and lunch at the Butler University Dining Hall.

Registration: Please join us for registration in the Fairbanks building, located to the west of Jordan Hall on the campus of Butler University.

Awards: Trophies will be presented to all teams advancing to elimination rounds. Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top schools at the tournament.

Entries: Please register for the tournament at forensicstournament.net. If you have not used this site before, you will need to create an account before you will be able to register. You will need to register for each tournament separately. All schools will be allowed to enter two at-large teams. Additional teams may be entered provided they attended a CPF tournament and were ranked in the top half of the teams entered at the conclusion of preliminary rounds. If you are entering more than 2 teams, please scan and send tournament results to Dan West at westd1@ohio.edu

**2012 College Public Forum National Tournament
Butler University, Indianapolis, IN
February 25, 2012**

Saturday, February 25

8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 am	Round 1
10:00 – 11:00 am	Round 2
11:00 – Noon	Round 3
Noon – 1:15	Lunch at Butler University Dining Hall
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Round 4
2:30 pm	Announcement of Elimination Rounds contestants
2:45 pm	Elimination rounds begin

College Public Forum

- 1. Philosophy:** Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution. Competitors in this team event advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution (prepared by the College Public Forum committee and distributed via the IE-L). The clash of idea must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. Public Forum should:
 - a. Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis.**
 - b. Utilize evidence without being driven by it.**
 - c. Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)**
 - d. Communicate ideas with civility, clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.**

This is not a debate event, per se, and as such, teams do not have prime facie burdens or the burden of rejoinder. Instead, teams are asked to advocate for (pro) or against (con) the ideas and policies represented within the resolution.

Since this is not a debate event, in the traditional sense, teams are prohibited from utilizing plans (formalized comprehensive proposals for implementation), counterplans and kritiks (off-topic arguments). Multiple competitive venues exist for the application of these argumentative strategies.

- 2. Resolutions:** Resolutions will be distributed four times in this inaugural year. Topics will be announced on the IE-L.
 - a. Sept 17 for tournaments Oct 1-31.**
 - b. Oct 25 for tournaments Nov 5-Dec 5.**

- c. Jan 7 for tournaments Jan 14-Feb 21
- d. Feb 11 for the National Tournament, Feb 26 at Butler University in Indianapolis, IN.

3. Procedure and order of speeches: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Note: The round begins at the conclusion of the coin flip/sides/positions discussion. Contestants may not leave the room or consult with coaches after the coin flip, which begins the round.

- a. First Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
- b. First Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
- c. Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) 3 minutes
- d. Second Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
- e. Second Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
- f. Crossfire (first question by A2) 3 minutes
- g. Summary – First Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
- h. Summary – First Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
- i. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
- j. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
- k. Prep Time 2 minutes per team

4. Timing: Judges and/or debaters should keep track of speaking time.

5. Plans/Counterplans: In College Public Forum, neither side is permitted to offer a plan nor a counterplan (formalized comprehensive proposal for implementation). Instead, each team should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

6. Oral Critiques: No debate ballot may be turned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. CPF and the ICFL discourage judges from disclosing decisions in preliminary rounds of competition. The ballot serves as a valuable educational tool to the teams and their coaches. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.

7. Judges: The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.

8. Governance: College Public Forum is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Forensics League (ICFL) and all matters not covered in this description will be clarified by the ICFL committee.

9. National Tournament and Qualifications: Each school in attendance at the College Public Forum National Tournament will be allowed to enter two at-large teams. All

additional entries from each school must qualify for the national tournament by being ranked in the top half of teams (with no more than 8 qualifications at any tournament) at a sanctioned Public Forum Tournament during the regular season.

- 10. Sanctioning:** All College Public Forum participants are encouraged to be active members of this new forensics community and any and all suggestions and concerns should be directed to the ICFL committee. All College Public Forum tournaments must use the appropriate resolution and must be sanctioned by the ICFL. Sanctioning is available to all schools at the fee of \$1 per team College Public Forum Team entered into competition. To receive sanctioning, a tournament must:
- a. Have a minimum of three schools competing in public forum
 - b. Have a minimum of 4 teams in attendance.
 - c. Hold a minimum of 4 rounds of competition.
 - d. Use the appropriate CPF topic.
 - e. Submit a completed sanctioning form (attached)
 - f. Submit a complete set of tournament results (prelim rounds as well as a completed elim bracket, clearly identifying first and last names as well as school affiliations of all competitors).
 - g. Pay the sanctioning fee.
 - h. NOTE: Any school in attendance may complete the sanctioning process for a tournament.

- 11. A guide to competing in Public Forum can be found at:**

http://www.nflonline.org/uploads/AboutNFL/cr103pf_instr.pdf

Note: This guide was written for high school Public Forum, and the events have slight differences.

- 12. A guide to judging Public Forum can be found at:**

<http://www.nflonline.org/uploads/CoachingResources/Public%20Forum%20Judge%20Overview.pdf>

Note: This guide was written for high school Public Forum, and the events have slight differences.

- 13. Sample resolutions:** Listed below are resolutions used in High School Public Forum. College Public Forum will use resolutions similar to the ones listed below:

- a. Resolved: That, by 2040, the federal government should mandate that all new passenger vehicles and light trucks sold in the United States be powered by alternative fuels
- b. Resolved: That the United States government should implement universal health care modeled after the French system."
- c. Resolved: That the United States should significantly increase its use of nuclear energy.
- d. Resolved: That the United States should implement a military draft.

- e. Resolved: That the US Government should increase social services for indigenous peoples in America.
- f. Resolved: That eliminating United States government budget deficits should be prioritized over increasing domestic spending.
- g. Resolved: That the [Fairness Doctrine](#) should be reinstated.
- h. Resolved: That the private ownership of handguns should be banned in the United States

14. For more information: If you are interested in competing in College Public Forum, there are many resources available at the National Forensics League at <http://www.nflonline.org>