

National Public Policy Forum Guidelines

1. There is no fee to participate in the contest.
2. The 2008-09 topic for debate is “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.”
3. Eligible entries for each round must be emailed to sem@bickelbrewer.com by 2 p.m. CST (GMT -05:00) on the dates on the NPPF Schedule of Events.
4. Any number of team members may participate in the Qualifying Round.
5. All team members must attend the same school and must be full-time high school (grades 9-12) students.
6. Each school is limited to one team and one entry per round.
7. It is the expectation of the National Public Policy Forum that each submitted paper will be the original work of the team members. Coaches may offer advice and suggestions, but should not create or substantially alter the work. **(See Format Instructions below for Honor Pledge)**
8. All papers must conform to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, www.mla.org or www.writinghelp-central.com.
9. The contest will be conducted as follows:
 - a. Qualifying Round
 - i. Each team will submit a paper in support of or in opposition to the resolution to sem@bickelbrewer.com by 2 p. m. CST (GMT -05:00), October 29, 2008.
 - ii. Papers must follow the format guidelines for the contest **(see Format Instructions Below)**.
 - iii. Qualifying Round papers should be no more than 2,800 words, not counting the title page or the works-cited pages. Any text over 2,800 words will be deleted before arguments are sent to the judges.
 - iv. The contest director will check papers for adherence to contest rules.
 - v. Depending on the number of entries submitted, a panel of judges will select either 16 or 32 schools to participate in the first elimination round. Schools will remain anonymous before the panel during the Qualifying Round process. The decision of the judges will be final.
 - b. Elimination Rounds
 - i. Rules
 1. The teams selected from each round will be paired and sides will be assigned.
 2. Each debate will consist of four papers—two constructive and two rebuttal. All papers must be submitted to sem@bickelbrewer.com. The contest director will check papers for adherence to contest rules and guidelines, and then forward to opposing teams **(See Format Instructions Below)**.
 3. Affirmative/Negative Constructive papers should be no more than 2,800 words, not counting the title page or the works-cited pages. Any text over 2,800 words will be deleted before arguments are sent to the judges.
 4. Affirmative Rebuttal papers should be no more than 1,700 words, not counting the title page or the works-cited pages. Negative Rebuttal papers should be no more than 1,400 words, not counting the title page or the works-cited pages. Any text over the word limit will be deleted before arguments are sent to the judges.
 5. To preserve anonymity for the judges, refer to your opponent as “the affirmative” or “the negative.” Do not refer to your opponent by the particular school that they attend.
 - ii. Sweet 16

1. The contest director will pair the 16 schools selected for this round.
 2. Sides (affirmative or negative) will be assigned by a blind draw.
 3. The teams selected for this round will exchange papers according to the Schedule of Events.
 4. Schools are labeled as "School A" (affirmative) and "School B" (negative) to remain anonymous before the panel during the entire debate process.
 5. Winners of this round will be determined by a majority vote of the judges. All decisions are final.
- iii. Elite Eight
1. The contest director will pair the eight schools selected for this round.
 2. Sides will be assigned by a blind draw.
 3. The teams selected for this round will exchange papers according to the Schedule of Events.
 4. Winners of this round will be determined by a majority vote of the judges.
 5. Schools are labeled as "School A" (affirmative) and "School B" (negative) to remain anonymous before the panel during the entire debate process. The decision of the judges will be final.
- iv. Final Four
1. The four schools reaching the finals in New York City will each be provided with a \$500 stipend, round-trip air travel, hotel accommodations, ground transportation and some meals for a total of three students and two coaches. Teams selected for the finals may bring additional team members at their expense. Traveling team members must be on the team roster and must have participated in the previous rounds of written work.
 2. The contest director will pair the four schools selected for this round.
 3. Sides will be assigned by a blind draw.
 4. The teams selected for this round will exchange papers and then participate in oral argument according to the Schedule of Events.
 5. The final-round judges will determine the first, second, third and fourth place teams. The majority decision of the final-round judges will be final.

10. Format Instructions

- a. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers will govern the format for all papers. For more information about MLA style, consult www.mla.org or www.writinghelp-central.com.
- b. One-inch margins should be used for all text pages. All text pages must have a header with consecutive-page numbering in the upper right-hand corner. The header must be flush with the right margin, and one-half-inch down from the top margin.
- c. Papers should be typed (if possible, in Microsoft Word) using 12-point Times or Times New Roman font.
- d. Each paper must have a title page. The title page should identify the school, the address of the school (including zip code and country), the names of each team member and coach(es) and provide detailed contact information (phone and e-mail) for the debate coach(es). The title page should identify the two schools in the debate, the paper sequence (constructive or rebuttal) and the assigned side. The title page should also include the name of the contest: The National Public Policy Forum, the current round and the following signed Honor Pledge:

"On our honor, we pledge that we have received no unauthorized assistance on this work."

11. The contest director will interpret and enforce the rules of the contest. The decisions of the contest director will be final.
12. Awards
 - a. The first place team will receive a \$10,000 prize (\$5,000 to the school, \$5,000 to be divided between the team members) and the "Bickel & Brewer Cup."
 - b. The second place team will receive a \$3,500 prize and a runner-up trophy.
 - c. The third and fourth place teams will each receive a \$1,000 prize.
 - d. The fifth through eighth place teams will each receive a \$500 prize.
 - e. The ninth through sixteenth place teams will each receive a \$250 prize.
13. Questions? Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page for additional information or contact:

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