

Past Topics - Public Forum Debate

2021-2022

- November/December – Resolved: Increased United States federal regulation of cryptocurrency transactions and/or assets will produce more benefits than harms.
- September/October – Resolved: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization should substantially increase its defense commitments to the Baltic states.

2020-2021

- Nationals 2021 – Resolved: In the United States, social media is beneficial for democratic values.
- April – Resolved: The benefits of the International Monetary Fund outweigh the harms.
- March – Resolved: On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force outweigh the harms.
- February – Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.
- January – Resolved: The National Security Agency should end its surveillance of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- November/December – Resolved: The United States should adopt a declaratory nuclear policy of no first use.
- September/October – Resolved: The United States federal government should enact the Medicare-For-All Act of 2019.

2019-2020

- Nationals 2020 – Resolved: On balance, charter schools are beneficial to the quality of education in the United States.
- April 2020 – Resolved: The United States should remove nearly all of its military presence in the Arab States of the Persian Gulf.
- March 2020 – Resolved: The United States should increase its use of nuclear energy for commercial energy production.
- February 2020 – Resolved: The United States should replace means-tested welfare programs with a universal basic income.
- January 2020 – Resolved: The United States should end its economic sanctions against Venezuela.
- November/December 2019 – Resolved: The benefits of the United States federal government's use of offensive cyber operations outweigh the harms.
- September/October 2019 – Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.

2018-2019

- Nationals 2019 – Resolved: The United States federal government should enforce antitrust regulations on technology giants.
- April 2019 – Resolved: The United Nations should grant India permanent membership on the Security Council.
- March 2019 – Resolved: The United States should promote the development of market rate housing in urban neighborhoods.
- February 2019 – Resolved: The United States should end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.
- January 2019 – Resolved: The United States federal government should prioritize reducing the federal debt over promoting economic growth.
- November/December 2018 – Resolved: The United States federal government should impose price controls on the pharmaceutical industry.
- September/October 2018 – Resolved: The United States should accede to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea without reservations.

2017-2018

- Nationals 2018 – Resolved: On balance, the benefits of United States participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement outweigh the consequences.
- April 2018 – Resolved: The United States federal government should increase its quota of H-1B visas.
- March 2018 – Resolved: On balance, the current Authorization for Use of Military Force gives too much power to the president.
- February 2018 – Resolved: The United States should abolish the capital gains tax.
- January 2018 – Resolved: Spain should grant Catalonia its independence.
- December 2017 – Resolved: NCAA student athletes ought to be recognized as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- November 2017 – Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfers of ownership.
- September/October 2017 – Resolved: Deployment of anti-missile systems is in South Korea's best interest.

2016-2017

- Nationals 2017 – Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance.
- April 2017 – Resolved: The United States ought to replace the Electoral College with a direct national popular vote.
- March 2017 – Resolved: The United States should no longer pressure Israel to work toward a two-state solution.
- February 2017 – Resolved: The United States should lift its embargo against Cuba.
- January 2017 – Resolved: In order to better respond to international conflicts, the United States should significantly increase its military spending.
- December 2016 – Resolved: The United States should end Plan Colombia.
- November 2016 – Resolved: On balance, the benefits of the Internet of Things outweigh the harms of decreased personal privacy.
- September/October 2016 – Resolved: In United States public K-12 schools, the probable cause standard ought to apply to searches of students.

2015-2016

- 2016 National Speech & Debate Tournament – On balance, a one-day national primary would be more beneficial for the United States than our current presidential primary process.
- April 2016 – Resolved: To alleviate income inequality in the United States, increased spending on public infrastructure should be prioritized over increased spending on means-tested welfare programs.
- March 2016 – Resolved: The United States should withdraw its military presence from Okinawa.
- February 2016 – Resolved: The United States federal government should adopt a carbon tax.
- January 2016 – Resolved: On balance, economic sanctions are reducing the threat Russia poses to Western interests.
- December 2015 – Resolved: On balance, standardized testing is beneficial to K-12 education in the United States.
- November 2015 – Resolved: In response to the current crisis, a government should prioritize the humanitarian needs of refugees over its national interests.
- September/October 2015 – Resolved: The United States Federal Government ought to pay reparations to African Americans.

2014-2015

- 2015 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: The benefits of First Amendment protection of anonymous speech outweigh the harms.
- April 2015 – Resolved: Committing United States ground combat troops to fight ISIL is in the best interest of the United States.
- March 2015 – Resolved: In the United States, students should be guaranteed two years of free tuition to a community or technical college.
- February 2015 – Resolved: On balance, economic globalization benefits worldwide poverty reduction.
- January 2015 – Resolved: United Nations peacekeepers should have the power to engage in offensive operations.
- December 2014 – Resolved: For-profit prisons in the United States should be banned.
- November 2014 – Resolved: On balance, the benefits of genetically modified foods outweigh the harms.
- September/October 2014 – Resolved: On balance, public subsidies for professional athletic organizations in the United States benefit their local communities.

2013-2014

- 2014 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: NATO should strengthen its relationship with Ukraine in order to deter further Russian aggression.
- April 2014 – Resolved: Prioritizing economic development over environmental protection is in the best interest of the people of India.
- March 2014 – Resolved: Single-gender classrooms would improve the quality of education in American public schools.
- February 2014 – Resolved: The Supreme Court rightly decided that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act violated the Constitution.
- January 2014 – Resolved: Development assistance should be prioritized over military aid in the Sahel region of Africa.
- December 2013 – Resolved: Immigration reform should include a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States.
- November 2013 – Resolved: The benefits of domestic surveillance by the National Security Agency outweigh the harms.

- September/October 2013 – Resolved: Unilateral military force by the United States is justified to prevent nuclear proliferation.

2012-2013

- 2013 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: The benefits of American drone strikes against foreign targets outweigh the harms.
- April 2013 – Resolved: The continuation of current U.S. anti-drug policies in Latin America will do more harm than good.
- March 2013 – Resolved: The U.S. government should not require its citizens to have health insurance.
- February 2013 – Resolved: On balance, the rise of China is beneficial to the interests of the United States.
- January 2013 – Resolved: On balance, the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission harms the election process.
- December 2012 – Resolved: The United States should prioritize tax increases over spending cuts.
- November 2012 – Resolved – Current U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East undermines our national security.
- October 2012 – Resolved: Developed countries have a moral obligation to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- September 2012 – Resolved: Congress should renew the Federal Assault Weapons Ban.

2011-2012

- 2012 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: Stand Your Ground laws are a legitimate expansion of the doctrine of self defense.
- April 2012 – Resolved: State mandated administration of childhood vaccinations is justified.
- March 2012 – Resolved: The United States should suspend all assistance to Pakistan.
- February 2012 – Resolved: Birthright citizenship should be abolished in the United States.
- January 2012 – Resolved: The costs of a college education outweigh the benefits.
- December 2011 – Resolved: In the United States, current income disparities threaten democratic ideals.
- November 2011 – Resolved: Direct popular vote should replace electoral vote in presidential elections.

- October 2011 – Resolved: Private sector investment in human space exploration is preferable to public sector investment.
- September 2011 – Resolved: The benefits of post-9/11 security measures outweigh the harms to personal freedom.

2010-2011

- 2011 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That the United States should intervene in another nation's struggle for democracy.
- April 2011 – Resolved: The United States federal government should permit the use of financial incentives to encourage organ donation.
- March 2011 – Resolved: North Korea poses a more serious threat to United States national security than Iran.
- February 2011 – Resolved: Wikileaks is a threat to United States national security.
- January 2011 – Resolved: In the United States, plea bargaining undermines the criminal justice system.
- December 2010 – Resolved: Cyberbullying should be a criminal offense.
- November 2010 – Resolved: High school Public Forum Debate resolutions should not confront sensitive religious issues.
- October 2010 – Resolved: NATO presence improves the lives of Afghan citizens.
- September 2010 – Resolved: Allowing deep water offshore oil drilling is in the best interest of the United States.

2009-2010

- 2010 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: Current trends in American political dialogue compromise meaningful democratic deliberation.
- 2010 NCFL Nationals° – Resolved: That the constitutional right of freedom of religion has wrongly evolved into freedom from religion.
- April 2010 – Resolved: On balance, government employee labor unions have a positive impact on the United States.
- March 2010 – Resolved: Affirmative action to promote equal opportunity in the United States is justified.
- February 2010 – Resolved: In the United States, organized political lobbying does more harm than good.

- January 2010 – Resolved: President Obama’s plan for increasing troops in Afghanistan is in the United States’ best interest.
- December 2009 – Resolved: That merit pay based on student achievement should be a significant component of K-12 teacher compensation in United States public schools.
- November 2009 – Resolved: Failed nations are a greater threat to the United States than stable nations.
- October 2009 – Resolved: When in conflict, the United Nations should prioritize global poverty reduction over environmental protection.
- September 2009 – Resolved: United States policy on illegal immigration should focus on attrition through enforcement rather than amnesty.

2008-2009

- 2009 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That the United States should normalize relations with Cuba.
- 2009 NCFL Nationals° – Resolved: A society has an obligation to ensure adequate health care for its citizens.
- April 2009 – Resolved: That the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009 serves the best interest of the American people.
- March 2009 – Resolved: That, on balance, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has improved academic achievement in the United States.
- February 2009 – Resolved: That, on balance, the rise of Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC) has had a positive impact on the United States.
- January 2009 – 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.
- December 2008 – Resolved: That, on balance, social networking Web sites have a positive impact on the United States.
- November 2008 – Resolved: That the United States government should implement universal health care modeled after the French system.
- October 2008 – Resolved: The United States should significantly increase its use of nuclear energy.
- September 2008 – Resolved: That the United States should implement a military draft.

2007-2008

- 2008 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: US policies established after September 11, 2001 have substantially reduced the risk of terrorist acts against the United States.

- 2008 NCFL^o Nationals – Resolved: That the US Government should increase social services for indigenous peoples in America.
- April 2008 – Resolved: That the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 will successfully mitigate economic slowdowns over the next year.
- March 2008 – Resolved: The US system of presidential primaries is contrary to democratic values.
- February 2008 – Resolved: That Russia has become a threat to U.S. interests.
- January 2008 – Resolved: In a democracy, civil disobedience is an appropriate weapon in the fight for justice.
- December 2007 – Resolved: That the United States would be justified in pursuing military options against Iran.
- November 2007 – Resolved: That eliminating United States government budget deficits should be prioritized over increasing domestic spending.
- October 2007 – Resolved: That the United States should encourage the implementation of a soft partition of Iraq.
- September 2007 – Resolved: That the Fairness Doctrine should be reinstated.

2006-2007

- 2007 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That the private ownership of handguns should be banned in the United States.
- 2007 NCFL Nationals^o – Resolved: That the President and Vice-President of the United States should be elected by a direct vote of the American citizens.
- April 2007 – Resolved: United States corporations should honor all prior commitments to employee pensions.
- March 2007 – Resolved: That the quantity of credit available to American consumers should be significantly reduced.
- February 2007 – Resolved: The costs of legalized casino gambling in the United States outweigh the benefits.
- January 2007 – Resolved: That lobbyists negatively influence the legislative process in the United States.
- December 2006 – Resolved: Colleges and Universities in the United States should end their early admission programs.
- November 2006 – Resolved: That participating in multinational diplomatic efforts is beneficial to U. S. interests.

- October 2006 – Resolved: Current immigration laws in the United States should be enforced.
- September 2006 – Resolved: That the benefits of NASA's space exploration programs justify the costs.

2005-2006

- 2006 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That the United States government should ratify the Kyoto Protocol.
- April 2006 – Resolved: That the American media work against the best interest of the American public.
- March 2006 – Resolved: That big box retailers benefit the communities in which they are located.
- February 2006 – Resolved: That the policy decisions of the current Israeli government toward the Palestinian state have improved prospects for peace in the Middle East.
- January 2006 – Resolved: In the United States, public high school science curriculum should include the study of the Theory of Intelligent Design.
- December 2005 – Resolved: That the National Basketball Association (NBA) should rescind its dress code.
- November 2005 – Resolved: That the United States federal government should fund Hurricane Katrina relief and rebuilding by ending President Bush's tax cuts.
- October 2005 – Resolved: That the United Nations should be the primary agent to lead and direct the fight against terrorism around the world.
- September 2005 – Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities should be permitted to pay stipends to their Division I athletes.

2004-2005

- 2005 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That, when a choice is required for public high schools in the United States, government funding should prioritize vocational education over college preparatory education.
- April 2005 – Resolved: The United States should issue guest worker visas to illegal aliens.
- March 2005 – Resolved: Student aptitude should be assessed through standardized testing.
- February 2005 – Resolved: In the United States, the current system of federal income taxation should be replaced by a flat rate income tax.
- January 2005 – Resolved: The United States Constitution should be amended to establish a mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court Justices.

- December 2004 – Resolved: Corporate offshoring aids in the economic development of the United States.
- November 2004 – Resolved: The United States government should allow Americans to purchase prescription drugs from other countries.
- October 2004 – Resolved: In the United States, public opinion polls positively affect the election process.
- September 2004 – Resolved: That the United States should establish a cabinet-level position to oversee its entire intelligence community.

2003-2004

- 2004 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: All young adults in every nation should be required to perform at least one full year of national service.
- April 2004 – Resolved: English should be the official national language of the United States.
- March 2004 – Resolved: The United States should provide universal health care insurance to all U.S. citizens.
- February 2004 – Resolved: Americans should be allowed to share copyrighted media over the internet.
- January 2004 – Resolved: The United States is losing the War on Terror.
- December 2003 – Resolved: Congress should repeal the No Child Left Behind Act.
- November 2003 – Resolved: That Federal judges should be elected in their district for a limited term rather than appointed by the President for a life term.
- October 2003 – Resolved: That the United States should comply with United Nations' decisions concerning international peacekeeping operations.
- September 2003 – Resolved: Use of a cell phone should be prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

2002-2003

- 2003 National Speech & Debate Tournament – Resolved: That the United States should assume primary responsibility for the rebuilding of Iraq.
- April 2003 – Resolved: Awards for pain and suffering in medical malpractice cases should be limited to \$250,000.
- March 2003 – Resolved: Affirmative action should not be practiced in college and university admission.

- February 2003 – Resolved: The death penalty should be abolished in America.
- January 2003 – Resolved: The Federal Government should authorize oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve.
- December 2002 – Resolved: The “Bush” tax cuts should be made permanent.
- October/November 2002 – Resolved: Commercial airline pilots should be armed in the cockpit.