What is Progressive Debate?

Overview

In Progressive Debate individuals, as opposed to teams, debate.
Debaters will present using the April NSDA Public Forum topic.

There will be approximately 4-6 debaters in each round who will draw for order at the beginning of the round.
Speaker number one will present a short PRO constructive speech 2 1/2 minutes.

Speaker two (and the subsequent speakers) has the option to **EITHER** take 2 minutes of Prep before they begin their Cross-Examination of speaker one for 2 minutes **OR** they can start their 2 minutes of cross-examination and then take their 2 minutes of Prep-it's up to them. They can simply stand up when the previous speaker finishes to begin cross-examining the speaker, or they can say, "I'll take my Prep."

After the Cross-Examination OR the Prep, speaker two will present a 5-minute speech starting with a CON rebuttal to speaker one (about 2 1/2 minutes), then immediately move into their own PRO constructive speech (about 2 1/2 minutes). Debaters will continue with the CX/Prep-Con-Pro system until the final speaker delivers their Pro speech. At this time, the first speaker will then cross-examine the last speaker or take prep, and then cross-examine them, and then present a CON rebuttal to the last speaker's arguments (2 1/2 minutes).

Speakers will be scored like an individual forensic event 1/100, 2/99, 3/98, 4/97....
Judges often will be lay judges with no special debate training.

Speaker A– Pro Speech 2 ½ minutes

Speaker B– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN
5 minutes of speech time, approximately 2 ½ minutes of Con (against Speaker A's Pro) and then 2 ½ minutes of Pro

Speaker C– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN

5 minutes of speech time, approximately 2 ½ minutes of Con (against Speaker B's Pro) and then 2 ½ minutes of Pro

Speaker D– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN
5 minutes of speech time, approximately 2 ½ minutes of Con (against Speaker C's Pro) and then 2 ½ minutes of Pro

Speaker E– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN
5 minutes of speech time, approximately 2 ½ minutes of Con (against Speaker D's Pro) and then 2 ½ minutes of Pro

Speaker F– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN
5 minutes of speech time, approximately 2 ½ minutes of Con (against Speaker E's Pro) and then 2 ½ minutes of Pro

Speaker A– Either 2 minutes of prep and then 2 minutes of cross-examination
OR
2 minutes of cross-examination and then 2 minutes of prep
THEN
2 ½ minutes of speech time to give a Con against Speaker F's Pro

During Prep Time students may access notes, research, and even Google, but they MAY NOT access any people through chat, text, email, etc.

Students should use evidence in their Pro and Con speeches and MUST cite both direct quotes and paraphrased information, at a minimum, the author or source and date of their evidence.

Students should flow (take notes) each debate round. The flow of the round is not only useful to record the arguments in the Pro they must refute so they can prepare their

rebuttal, but also to keep track of the other arguments in the round. Students may cross-apply arguments and evidence that the other students in the round present in their speeches. Most students will have only 1 well-developed contention with multiple pieces of evidence for their Pro speech and have multiple prepared contentions they can use in their Con speech.