Igawa’s Notes for Workshop

The Nature and Purpose of Student Congress

Allows you a chance to practice most of the skills used in political discussion and public speaking.

Mechanics of Student Congress
Bill preparation
Parliamentary procedure

Mimics real life legislative assemblies
Uses
Oratory
Radio
Extemporaneous Speaking
Impromptu Speaking

Participation in discussion, debates and parliamentary situations

Parliamentary Procedure
How to state a question in correct parliamentary language
How to take a vote
Which types of votes to use
How to announce the result and effect of vote

Presiding Officers should know
How and why used

The Mechanics of Student Congress

You are appointed to a house or senate.
Length of session determined by tournament
Order
Call to order
Roll call
Announcements
Election of Chair
Setting up Docket
Session for debate
(Voting)
Adjournment / Awards
**Student Congress Procedures**

Allows all members to participate.
Parliamentary procedure is key to moving congress along.

**Debate**

Speeches
- 3 minutes author, aff, neg
- 5 speeches per day
- Given on precedence

**Etiquette**

- Senator or Representative
- Mr. or Madame Chairperson

Rise for recognition
Chairperson recognizes next speaker
Never argue with chair or judge

**Parliamentary Procedure**

- Ensure the rule of the majority and guard the rights of the minority.
- Don’t show off – get as many debate speeches in as possible.
- “I move to/for....”
- “Second”

**Bills, Resolutions and Amendments**

- Bills are laws
- Resolutions are proposition of value or fact / beliefs
- Amendments are written out and specific to parts

**Preparation for Student Congress**

**Individual**

- Understand that there are multiple viewpoints to consider.
- Do not alienate others
- Research your topics
  - Keep your evidence organized
- Have a prepared authorship speech

**Strategies for Success in Student Congress**

**Interpersonal Skills**

- Debate is through skillful speeches not personal attacks
- Get to know members from other schools

**Debate**

- Limitations on presentations (5 speeches)
- 1st aff or neg speech or wait
- Bandwagon
- Extension or amplification of a point
Persuade – rate, vocal variety, gestures intonation and volume, pauses humor, analogies, similes, metaphors, paradoxes and other rhetorical devices
Attitude
   Respect it, others and yourself
   Enjoy what you are doing

Handouts:
Modified version of Chad's Guide to Student Congress
Table of Most Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions.