Topics

Current Topics | Potential Topics | Past Topics | Topic Release Schedule

Current Topics

Lincoln-Douglas
Public Forum
Policy Debate
Big Questions
Congress
Extemp
World Schools

Lincoln-Douglas



A Note About the LD Topic Release Schedule: Each summer, the Lincoln-Douglas Wording Committee assigns a set of two topics to each bi-monthly topic cycle. All potential topics for the year are released the Monday following the conclusion of the National Tournament. In June, chapter advisors and member students will know, "These two topics will be voted on for September/October. These two topics will be voted on for November/December," etc. One week prior to the topic being released for that topic cycle, chapter advisors and member students will vote on which of the two topics they prefer. The topic that receives the most votes will be the topic for that cycle.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate – 2026 September/October Topic

Resolved: Outer space colonization is a moral imperative.

A total of 534 coaches and 2,285 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 60% of the coach vote and 61% of the student vote.

LD Topic Analysis September/October 2026

LD Advanced Evidence Guide September/October 2026

Lincoln-Douglas Debate – 2026 November/December Topic

Resolved: De-extinction is unethical.

A total of 636 coaches and 3,167 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 54% of the coach vote and 57% of the student vote.

LD Topic Analysis November/December 2026

Lincoln-Douglas Debate – Novice Topic

Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory.

Note: The novice Lincoln-Douglas topic is an optional topic that coaches and tournaments may choose to use each year in September/October, or the first two months of the novice season. The same topic is used each year and is created to be accessible to new debaters so that coaches can have a consistent, beginner-friendly topic to guide their novice LD curriculum using educational materials provided by the NSDA. Coaches are encouraged to check with tournament hosts in their area before exclusively prepping for one topic over another. Access sample cases on the mandatory national service topic.

Public Forum



A Note About the PF Topic Release Schedule: Each summer, the Public Forum Wording Committee assigns a set of two topics to each topic cycle. All potential topic areas and resolutions for the year are released the Monday following the conclusion of the National Tournament. In June, chapter advisors and member students will know, "These two topics will be voted on for September/October. These two topics will be voted on for November/December," etc. One week prior to the topic being released for that topic cycle, chapter advisors and member students will vote on which of the two topics they prefer. The topic that receives the most votes will be the topic for that cycle.

Nationals topic options will be announced the last week of April.

Public Forum Debate – 2026 September/October Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.

A total of 530 coaches and 2,401 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 80% of the coach vote and 68% of the student vote.

PF Topic Analysis September/October 2026

PF Topic Advanced Evidence Guide September/October 2026

Public Forum Debate – 2026 November/December Topic

Resolved: European members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

A total of 629 coaches and 3,281 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 57% of the coach vote and 44% of the student vote.

PF Topic Analysis November/December 2026

Policy Debate



Policy Debate – 2026-2027 Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

Read a synopsis of the problem areas proposed for the 2026-2027 Policy Debate resolution.

Visit the NFHS website for a visual breakdown of how each state and organization voted.

Novice Case Limits for the 2026-2027 Policy Topic

Medicare for All — this affirmative is a single-payer, government-run system eliminating private insurance to cover everyone. It would be based on the current Medicare model.

Revise/Expand the Affordable Care Act — this affirmative would strengthen the 2010 Affordable Care Act, likely by strengthening the individual mandate and restoring federal subsidies for marketplace health insurance plans.

Single Payer Option to Replace Private Health Insurance — this affirmative is also a single-payer, government-run system eliminating private insurance to cover everyone, but it would not necessarily be based on the existing Medicare model.

Policy Debate – 2027-2028 Topic

Thank you for voting! The final two topic areas will be placed on the second ballot in November and December to select the 2027-2028 debate topic.

Read the press release announcing the final five resolutions. Download a complete synopsis of the problem areas proposed for the 2027-2028 season.

Big Questions



Big Questions – 2026-2027 Topic

Resolved: Technological progress has surpassed humanity's ability to use it ethically.

A total of 485 coaches and 1,830 students voted for the resolution. The winning resolution received 74% of the coach vote and 57% of the student vote.

Big Questions Topic Analysis 2026-2027

Congress Legislation



A sample docket is provided monthly on the first of the month.

Congress Legislation - October 2026

Congress Legislation - September 2026

Congressional Debate Topic Submission

Congressional Debate Overview

Legislation Templates

Extemp Questions



Sample questions are provided monthly on the first of the month.

Springboard #2 Extemp. Speaking Questions – 2026

Extemp Practice Questions - October 2026

Extemp Practice Questions - September 2026

Beginner Extemp Analysis

Advanced Extemp Analysis

World Schools Debate



Sample motions are provided monthly on the first of the month.

World Schools Debate Resource - October 2026

World Schools Debate Resource - September 2026

World Schools Debate Sample Round

Points of Information Activity

Potential Topics

2026-2027 Potential LD, PF, and BQ Topics

Lincoln-Douglas Debate 2026-2027 Potential Topics

The Lincoln-Douglas Wording Committee has developed a variety of potential resolutions for the 2026-2027 season. Member students and one chapter advisor per active school may vote for each topic one week prior to the topic release date. Topic voting for the September/October topic opens July 26, and the topic is announced August 1.

2026 September/October

Resolved: Outer space colonization is a moral imperative.

Resolved: Keeping wild animals in zoos is immoral.

Public Forum Debate 2026-2027 Potential Topics

The Public Forum Wording Committee has developed a variety of potential resolutions for the 2026-2027 season. Member students and one chapter advisor per active school may vote for each topic one week prior to the topic release date. Topic voting for the September/October topic opens July 26, and the topic is announced August 1.

2026 September/October

Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.

Resolved: The United States federal government should enact an emissions trading system.

Big Questions Debate 2026-2027 Potential Topics

There are two topic options for Big Questions for the 2026-2027 season. Member students and one chapter advisor per active school may vote for their preferred topic one week prior to the topic release date. Topic voting opens July 26, and the topic is announced August 1.

Option 1 – Resolved: The pursuit of scientific truth is more valuable than the pursuit of philosophical truth.

Past Topics

- Past Topics - Big Questions
- Past Topics - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- Past Topics - Public Forum Debate
- Past Topics - Policy Debate

Topic Release Schedule

- Topic Release Schedule - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
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