



Maryland Student Legislature

Annual Alumni/Student Debate

(The ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT shall approach the dais. The STUDENT TEAM and the ALUMNI TEAM shall be seated in chairs at the front of the room. In the event that the Governor is participating in the Annual Alumni/Student Debate, the highest ranking member of the Council of State not participating in the debate shall assume the Governor’s roles.)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT: Governor, Members of the Council of State, MSL Members, Members of the Board of Directors, Members of the Alumni Association, welcome to the _____ Annual Alumni/Student Reception featuring the _____ Annual Alumni/Student Debate. Before we begin today’s event _____ *(Alumni Association President shall give alumni remarks.)*

Now let’s begin the Annual Student Debate. This annual event will pit a team of five current Maryland Student Legislature’s most talented debaters against five distinguished Maryland Student Legislature Alumni. The current series shows the Alumni Team with _____ wins, and the Student Team with _____ wins.

I would now will turn the dais over to Governor _____ [last name].

(The GOVERNOR shall approach the dais.)

GOVERNOR: At this time I would like to appoint _____ [name of presiding officer] as the Presiding Officer of today’s debate. I would also like to appoint _____ [name of Timekeeper] as the Official Timekeeper. *(Timekeeper approaches the clerk’s desk.)*

I know will turn the dais over to _____ [name of Presiding Officer].

(The PRESIDING OFFICER approaches the dais and accepts the gavel from the Governor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank your Honorable Governor. Let me begin introducing today’s participants, starting with the Student Team. Would the Team Captain please rise for introductions?

(The STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN rises.)

STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN: Thank you. I am _____ [name of STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN] from _____ [college/university of STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN] and I am the _____ [name of office of STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN if applicable]. The remaining members of my team are _____ [name of PARTICIPANT] from _____ [college/university of PARTICIPANT], the _____ [name of office of PARTICIPANT if applicable]. *(Repeat for all members of the team.)*

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. And now, let’s introduce the Alumni Team. Would the Team Captain please rise for introductions?

ALUMNI TEAM CAPTAIN: Thank you. I am _____ [name of ALUMNI TEAM CAPTAIN], a graduate of _____ [college/university of STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN] and I am the _____

[name of current office or highest held former office of ALUMNI TEAM CAPTAIN if applicable]. The remaining members of my team are _____ [name of PARTICIPANT], a graduate of _____ [college/university of PARTICIPANT], the _____ [name of current office or highest held former office of PARTICIPANT if applicable]. *(Repeat for all members of the team.)*

PRESIDING OFFICER: Before we begin, let me explain the format of today's debate. The Governor and the Alumni Association President each selected five representatives to participate in today's debate. Each team will have 20 minutes equally divided to debate a piece of legislation. The Attorney General has selected three pieces of legislation that can be considered today. The teams have not seen the legislation. The pieces for consideration are [reads the titles of the legislation]. The Team Captain of the Student Team, please select which piece of legislation your team wishes to debate.

STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN: We would like to select [name of legislation].

PRESIDING OFFICER: Very well, today's debate will be on [name of legislation]. Would the Governor please approach the front for the coin toss?*(The GOVERNOR shall approach the front of the room and meet the STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN and the ALUMNI TEAM CAPTAIN equidistant between the sets of chairs.)*

GOVERNOR: The coin toss will determine which team gets to select the affirmative floor or the negative floor on this piece of legislation. The Student Team will call it in the air.

(The GOVERNOR flips the coin.)

STUDENT TEAM CAPTAIN: Heads/Tails. *(The coin falls to the floor.)*

GOVERNOR: It is Heads/Tails. The Alumni/Student Team has won the toss. Which side do you wish to take?

TEAM CAPTAIN: We shall take the Affirmative/Negative.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you Governor. The Student Team will assume the Affirmative/Negative Floor. The Alumni Team shall assume the Affirmative/Negative floor. There will now be a five minute recess to allow the teams to discuss their strategy and tactics. *(The PRESIDING OFFICER raps the gavel.)*

PRESIDING OFFICER: The body shall come to order. *(The PRESIDING OFFICER raps the gavel.)* The body shall now hear [name of legislation]. Debate shall be set at 30 minutes equally divided. Who wishes to yield time?

(The PRESIDING OFFICER will allow debate to continue under the Maryland Student Legislature Standing Rules of Order until all time has been exhausted or yielded back to the Chair.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Seeing as all time has been exhausted or yielded, we will now move into a vote. You, the members of the audience, will decide who has won here today. I would like to remind you that you should judge the debate solely on the merits of the debate, points argued, and tactics by the two teams. At this time, would all of those who believe the Student Team won please rise.

(The audience members voting for the Student team shall rise. The PRESIDING OFFICER and TIMEKEEPER shall jointly make a count of those standing.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Please be seated. At this time, would all of those who believe the Alumni Team won please rise.

(The audience members voting for the Student team shall rise. The PRESIDING OFFICER and TIMEKEEPER shall jointly make a count of those standing.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you very much. By a vote of ____ - ____, the winner of the ____ [year] Alumni/Student Debate is the _____ Team. I offer my congratulations. Now, would I would like to turn the dais over to the Governor.

(The GOVERNOR approaches the dais.)

GOVERNOR: At this time, the annual Alumni/Student Luncheon has concluded. Members before returning to House/Senate Proceedings please meet us at _____ [time] at the front of the State House on the steps for group photos. (**Note:** *if bad weather change to: please meet us in the House of Delegates Chamber for group photos.*)