**Targeted Voting Method for 2019-2020 LD Topic Vote**

**Eligibility**

Each member student and one chapter advisor per school is eligible to cast a vote! Topic votes are weighted: coach votes are worth 75%, and student votes are worth 25%.

**Timing**

The ballot for all topics used during the 2019-2020 season opened on July 25, 2019. Voting will close on August 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. CT. During this period, member students and advisors will vote for the topics they would like to be used as the 2020 National Tournament, 2020 March/April, 2020 January/February, 2019 November/December, and 2019 September/October topics.

The 2019 September/October topic will be released on August 8, 2019. Each subsequent topic will be released on the first of the month before the topic is used. For example, the March/April topic will be released on February 1.

**What is the targeted voting method?**

The targeted voting method means that a member student or advisor gets to rank the potential topics they prefer for **each** bi-monthly competitive cycle. For example, a member will rank their top 3 choices for the 2020 National Tournament topic on one ballot, their top 3 choices for the 2020 January/February topic on a separate ballot, their top 3 choices for the 2019 November/December topic on a separate ballot, and so on.

Your ranked preferences may be the same for each bi-monthly ballot or they may be different, e.g., you may prefer a certain topic as your top choice for Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb, but would like to rank that topic 3rd or not at all for March/April. No ranks on a particular bi-monthly ballot may be tied, and you must rank at least one option to submit the ballot.

 **Sample ballot:**

2020 Nationals: 1) Topic A 2) Topic C 3) Topic H

2020 Mar/April: 1) Topic A 2) Topic B 3) Topic E

2020 Jan/Feb: 1) Topic A 2) Topic B 3) Topic E

2019 Nov/Dec: 1) Topic C 2) Topic B 3) Topic G

2019 Sept/Oct: 1) Topic B 2) Topic D 3) Topic A

**How are topics chosen using the targeted voting method?**

To calculate which topics are chosen for each bi-monthly competition cycle, points are assigned to each topic you ranked. A topic you rank first for that bi-monthly cycle receives 3 points, 2 points are given for a second choice selection, and 1 point is given for a third choice selection. The total of points for each bi-monthly ballot is calculated. Then, the totals for coaches are multiplied by .75, and students are multiplied by .25 to give a weighted total. The weights are combined, and each bi-monthly competition cycle is given a list of topics ranked in order.

After the votes are calculated, if the first choice topic for each bi-monthly cycle is different, the process is complete! If the first choice topic for two bi-monthly cycles is the same, topic selection is based on a monthly priority that goes 1) Nationals, 2) March/April, 3) January/February, 4) November/December, and 5) September/October. This means that if the community wanted Topic A for both Nationals and March/April, Topic A would be used at Nationals, and the 2nd choice topic from the March/April ballots would be used for March/April.

**What’s new in 2019-2020?**

The targeted voting method remains the same as last year! New this year, the 2019 September/October topic will be chosen based on the 2019-2020 ballot votes. In previous years, the September/October topic was chosen on the previous year’s ballot. This change is possible due to the efficiency of electronic voting, and it allows members to vote for the topics they find to be most timely and relevant!

**What will be new in 2020-2021?**

The Board of Directors voted to move to an ordinal voting system for Lincoln-Douglas topics instead of a targeted voting system. This ordinal system will be used for the 2020-2021 LD topic vote. It is our belief that an ordinal voting system will be simpler to understand and more consistent with other topic voting systems in our organization. Next year, based on the annual July/August vote, members will not have separate ballots for each bi-monthly competition cycle. Instead, they will rank topics once, and the results will be based on:

September/October: 5th ranked topic

November/December: 4th ranked topic

January/February: 3rd ranked topic

March/April: 2nd ranked topic

National Tournament: 1st ranked topic

**How do I vote for the 2019-2020 Lincoln-Douglas Topics?**

To vote for the 2019-2020 LD topics, log in to speechanddebate.org/account. On your profile, you will see a red “NSDA Voting” button in the upper left corner of your screen.

You will see 5 ballots listed – one for each bi-monthly competitive cycle. Click “Vote” next to each and rank your top 3 topic preferences for that given cycle. Click “Submit Ballot” at the bottom of the page and repeat

for the other bi-monthly cycles!