



# A Comparative U.S. – India Constitutional Law Debate

## Rules and Regulations of the Competition

This project will showcase the Constitutions of the United States and India, underscoring democratic guarantees of a citizen's right to life, freedom, property, and speech in our societies. The debate will deliberate on contemporary issues in the context of the U.S. and Indian constitutional laws in a non-politicized and non-polarized atmosphere. The aim of the project is to enable the participants to better understand and appreciate the nuances of the U.S. and Indian Constitutions.

### 1. Format of the competition.

- This is an **individual based competition**, not team based.
- The first component of the competition will be held at the Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli on August 9, 2019 and will have 3 rounds on the same day to decide four finalists.
  - The **first round** will be a **four-minute speech contest**. At the end of this, sixteen participants will progress to the next round.
  - The **second round** will be structured in the following way:
    - Four-minute speech by Participant A drawing upon perspectives from both the U.S. and Indian Constitutions
    - Four-minute speech by Participant B drawing upon perspectives from both the U.S. and Indian Constitutions

Participant A and Participant B will be selected by picking of lots. At the end of this, eight participants will qualify for the next round.

- The **third round** will involve the following:
  - Four-minute speech by Participant A
  - One-minute rebuttal by Participant B
  - Four-minute speech by Participant B
  - One-minute rebuttal by Participant A
  - Question(s) from the judges (one minute per participant);

Participant A and Participant B will again be selected by picking of lots.

- At the end of the third round, four participants will proceed to the finale that will be held in Chennai.



## 2. Criteria for judging

- Logic
- Persuasiveness
- Content
- Body Language/Tone/Presentation Style
- U.S.–IndiaComparative Context

## 3. Resources provided to participants for preparation

The aim of this competition is to increase the knowledge of the participants on the constitutional laws. To aid the participant's preparation, You Tube videos will be made available on the following topics:

- History of the U.S. Constitution
- First Amendment
- Judicial Review/Due process

In addition, a list of online materials, books and DVDs available at the American Center, Chennai and select law review materials will be provided to the participant.

## 4. Application process

- The competition is open to any graduate within the age limit of 18-25 years, from a law/arts background.
- Participants can register for the competition only once. There is **no entry fee**.
- Participants can obtain the registration form their college.
- **The participant is required to fill the registration form and submit to the Tamil Nadu National Law University latest by 31.07.2019. No late entries will be permitted.**
- The host institute reserves the right to reject applications on any ground.
- Successful applicants will be informed of the selection by email.

## 5. Results of the competition.

- The results for the first round will be announced within one hour after all participants have delivered their speeches.



- The results for the second round will be announced within half an hour after the competition is complete.
- The results for the third round will be announced immediately after the competition is complete.
- **The decision of the judges shall remain final and will not be overturned under any circumstance.**
- Any issues, complaints or queries can be raised only with the competition coordinators and not the judges.

**6. Rights and responsibilities of the participants.**

- Participants are free to ask for additional instruction or advice from the coordinator assigned in the respective debate center.
- Before the debate rounds begin, each participant will be given a questionnaire. The participants are requested to complete the questionnaire and submit it to the competition coordinators.
- All competitors will be expected to act ethically and have a spirit of healthy competition and to represent themselves to the best of their ability.
- The top four finalists are required to be present for all scheduled events organized by the sponsors at Chennai, including workshops and group discussions, awards ceremony and evening reception.

**7. All participants will receive certificates.**

