

Thank you for volunteering to help with extemp topics and questions! It's more valuable than you know.

I have tried to create a schedule, below, to distribute the load for this year. If any of this is problematic, or if you can't meet a deadline or compose questions for a particular week – that's ok. I certainly understand, and if you let me know as soon as you can before that tournament, I will fill in the gap myself.

Normally, we ask that you submit the questions no later than end of the business day or latest, early evening, the Monday before a tournament. Occasionally I need them earlier to accommodate the special needs of a particular tournament.

Most of you have done this before, but for our new participants, please follow these guidelines:

1. I will need your best 12 questions on your assigned area emailed to me.
2. Each should be an essay-style question, one in which the student will either have to take an analytical position and prove it (e.g., "Will the Trump tariffs help or harm the average American?") or an advocacy position and argue for it (e.g., "Should the United States increase tariffs?").
3. No matter how the question is asked, the topic should only appear once in the question set unless it is a question of significantly different aspects of the topic.
4. Questions should be single, straightforward questions, without long preambles, conditionals, or that are loaded or present a false dilemma.
5. Topics should be drawn from sources the students should be expected to be perusing. That is, if the topic has not been significantly covered (a good article or more) in the past two to three weeks at most in at least one of the following, it is probably a bit too obscure: The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist Magazine, CNN. Occasionally a topic might have been covered in Foreign Policy or Foreign Affairs, The Hill, the Washington Post – usually if the topic has shown up in these there is at least something about it in the first four of these sources, and the students, of course, actually draw on dozens of sources for their information. None of this is a specific rule of the league, of course, but what we are looking to avoid here is questions becoming a species of "trivial pursuit," where a student is caught off-guard by some subject covered only once and only by a back page article in the Uzbekistan Daily Bugle.
6. Look at the bank of last year's questions on NYCFL.org for a sense of what these questions look like, if you are new at this.
7. "Foreign" covers both US foreign policy and politics within and among other countries. "Domestic" covers domestic policy and politics. Economics covers both US and international economics, and both macro (e.g., world trade issues) and micro (e.g., the affect of the gig economy on young workers lives). "Social, Cultural and Educational" covers societal trends, problems and issues not neatly falling into the other categories.

Thanks, and email me with any problems.

Column1	Column3	DUE BY	Foreign	Domestic	Economics	Social/Cultural/Education
9/29	NYCFL "First Regis"	9/23 - SUNDAY!	Norris	Joyce-Turner	Bratt	Sheinman
10/27	NYCFL - Sr. Raimonde	Monday 10/22/2018	DiMichele	Franz	Schleifer	Frank
11/3	NYCFL - Fordham Prep	Monday 10/22/2018	Bratt	Norris	Franz	Cardenas
12/1	NYCFL - Emily Clemente	Monday 10/22/2018	Franz	Andriello	DiMichele	Frank
1/12	NYCFL - Fr. Rippon	Monday 10/22/2018	Schleifer	Joyce-Turner	Franz	Sheinman
2/2	NYCFL --Convent CT	Monday 10/22/2018	Bratt	Andriello	Schleifer	Cardenas
3/9	NYCFL - Last Chance	Monday 10/22/2018	Norris	Joyce-Turner	Franz	Andriello
3/16	NYCFL - Grands	3/10 SUNDAY!	DiMichele	Franz	Franz	Schleifer