Henry Clay Center Student Congress

Policy Recommendation Presentation

Judge Guidelines

May 24. 2025

Policy Recommendation Overview:

The policy recommendation presentation is the culminating event of the Clay Congress program at the University of Kentucky. The students arrived on Monday May 19 and have been involved in several program activities. However, the focus of the Clay Congress program this week has been the development of policy recommendations regarding contemporary national policy issues. The students were divided into four policy issue topics including 1) tariff and trade policy, 2) immigration policy, 3) defense alliance policy, and 4) international health and environmental standards and agreements policy.

The policy topic groups were further divided into two groups who developed alternative policy recommendations and then the two groups were challenged to develop "compromise" recommendations through a discussion of the issue, the facts about the issue and civil discourse in a manner consistent with the legacy of Henry Clay, the Great Compromiser. After achieving a compromise, the students prepared their policy recommendation presentation which they will present this morning.

Presentation Outline:

The students have been advised that their presentation design and approach is flexible, but their presentation should include a discussion of why the issue has emerged as a national concern, including history etc. as appropriate, a brief overview of the two policy recommendations developed, a discussion of the compromise process and the final recommendation. Their presentations have a time limit of 20 minutes which includes time for the panel to ask questions (probably one question per panelists with follow-up as appropriate).

Presentation Judging:

Judges will be provided with a form to use in the assessment of the policy recommendation presentations. The form provides point allocations for various aspects of the presentation. The forms will be picked up after each presentation.

Each team has been advised to select a moderator or chair who will introduce the team members and guide the presentation including the question-and-answer

period after the presentation. The teams have been advised to allow 5 minutes of their 20-minute presentation time for questions from the panel. The panelists will also be introduced before each presentation.