Congress Debate

Upon entering the room, make sure the desks are arranged in a pattern similar to the seating chart. If not the case, make that happen.

With the seating chart properly oriented, place the seating chart on the front left or front right desk. Mark that desk as “This Desk” on the seating chart. The kids can use that as a map and will take it from there.

After they are seated, take the seating chart and run a quick roll-call and seat check.

“Are there any motions to nominate a presiding officer?”

If only one student wants to PO then you’re all set.

If more than one student wants to PO then invite them all to provide a brief, extemporaneous campaign speech. After all campaign speeches, a vote is held. Whoever gets the most votes is PO.

The students should run the house from here.

PO should say, “Are there any motions to open the floor for debate?”

Make sure the PO has the correct tally for:

Total votes available in the house

Simple majority

2/3 majority

Those tallies should be on the board for all to see.

Docket Order should be established.

Some docket order will be written on the board.

If more than one docket order, a vote is held. PO should handle that

PO should review gaveling procedures.

Watch recency…

If two people both want to give a speech and person A has already delivered one speech, then person B should be called upon by the PO.

Same deal with asking questions.

Prefacing…

When asking questions of speakers, questioners may not include any information in their question which was NOT included in that particular speech. “Prefacing” apparently means “No New Information”… If phrased properly “common knowledge” items can get a pass.

All questions should be asked, answered and that’s it. No back and forth is permitted.

