



Forum Theme:

The Issues Forum is an exciting part of the HTCC Student Research Conference. It gives participants an opportunity to present and debate divergent points of view about a controversial topic of importance to us all. This year's Forum theme is:

The California Budget Crisis: To Spend or Not to Spend? That is the Question

Forum Procedure:

- Four student applicants selected for the Forum panel will each make a five-minute uninterrupted persuasive presentation on a pre-selected aspect of the issue.
- Each panel member will have two minutes of rebuttal time to counter the statements made by the other participants on the panel.
- After the rebuttal period, members of the audience may make their own comments and pose questions to panel members. A faculty moderator will maintain reasonable decorum during the ensuing discussion, which will take up the remaining time of the sixty-minute Forum, and which *could* lead to a conclusion synthesizing aspects of the different arguments.

To Apply:

In addition to their conference applications, students wishing to serve on the panel will submit a proposal focusing on *one* of the following theses:

1. The 2/3 requirement to pass a budget or pass tax increases has been good for the economy and for the educational environment in California.
2. The 2/3 requirement to pass a budget or tax increases has been harmful for the economy and for the educational environment in California.
3. The Prop 13 property tax relief initiative has been a net benefit to the people of California.
4. The Prop 13 property tax relief initiative has had a net harmful effect for the people of California.

The proposal will consist of a 100-to-200-word abstract in which the applicant states his or her choice of the theses above and summarizes the reasons supporting it.

If you would like to participate in this event, submit your proposal to your honors director or coordinator* for approval. You may include, if you wish, one additional proposal identifying an alternate thesis. Your director or coordinator* will forward your abstract to Forum Coordinators John Oakes and Alison Primoza for final selection, and will later inform you if you are chosen to serve on the four-person panel.

Once selected to participate in the Issues Forum, by 1 February 2010 students will submit a bibliography to Alison Primoza and John Oakes containing at least *five* sources they have researched in preparation for the forum, plus a list of facts and talking points supporting their thesis.

Note: Please plan to speak *without* the use of audio/visual equipment.

* *Directors/Coordinators:* Use the conference reg/app form for Oral Presentations to register your student. Choose "Issues Forum" under "Type of Presentation" and write only the applicant's name in the "Group Members" field. Write "Issues Forum" in the Title field, cut and paste the appropriate thesis above (1-4) into the "25-30-word Proposal Description" field, and paste the student's 100-200 word abstract into the "75-100-word Abstract" field. If the applicant wishes to include an alternate thesis/proposal, paste those into the "Abstract" field, as well, below the first 100-200 word abstract.