



The Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational at Andover Central - 2018

Dear Colleagues,

You and your programme are cordially invited to attend the inaugural Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational to be hosted at Andover Central High School on October 5th and 6th, 2018. We are committed to having an excellent judging pool that will be one of the best in the state of Kansas. We will offer Policy debate in Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice divisions.

For those of you who were not blessed with the opportunity to know Aaron Thomas, he was one of the most joyous personalities to ever grace debate. An avid believer of debate's transformative power, Aaron was an exceptional debater at the legendary Kansas City Central programme where he racked up wins and friends amongst opponents and judges alike. He went on to debate at Kansas City Kansas Community College while actively volunteering at his urban debate league. Aaron was a pinnacle staple at in the UDL in Kansas City where he coached multiple teams throughout high and middle schools where he was a friendly face and a beacon of support for countless kids. He was beloved by students and coaches throughout the national circuit and beyond. Aaron tragically died in a car accident on January 1st, 2015. His impact on the community was as heartfelt as his loss was sorrowing. His passion and dedication to students and commitment to solidifying opportunities for young people to learn and grow are the guiding principles in the hosting of this tournament.

All entry fees for urban debate league teams will be waived and those schools will receive unlimited entries.

We will offer awards for all elimination participants awards in each division as well as speaker awards as well. This year we will allow individual speaker awards to accept their placing with their choice of Walk Up music. Sweepstakes awards will be awarded to the top five placing programmes. We are also presenting the Jane Rinehart Coach of the Year Award and will accept nominations up to the week prior to the tournament.

We will not be utilizing the KSHSAA parameters for our tournament; the following guidelines for our tournament will outline as best as possible our deviating norms. Additionally, we are actively looking for quality judges who have collegiate debate experience, if you know of any current college debaters please have them contact me.

We are interested in ensuring the tournament runs efficiently. To that end we have two points of emphasis. First, we will require all directors and coaches to be readily available to judge on Saturday morning. Secondly, we plan on making the ballot process as paperless as possible. All directors, coaches, and school judges should provide their Tabroom account (which ought to include a written paradigm) in order for us to ensure the tournament schedule stays on track.

We are steadfast in keeping the Junior Varsity division regardless of the amount of entries. We are utilizing the Kansas Novice Caselist which limits the amount of Affirmatives – if you are unfamiliar with this provision please email me.

Best,
Sohail Jouya
Director of Debate
Andover Central





General Regulations

Event Format

The tournament will host 6 Varsity and Junior Varsity preliminary rounds as well as 5 Novice preliminary rounds breaking to quarterfinals that follow the traditional “8-5-3” high school policy debate format for constructive, rebuttal, and cross-examination time. *There will be a total of 8 minutes of preparation time for each team.*

“Flashing” will not counts as prep time, regardless of individual judge preference – we actively encourage teams utilize email chains or SpeechDrop to cut down on time.

The tournament will not break brackets for elimination rounds. If teams from the same school face one another, coaches must indicate which team they would like to advance; in the even this does not happen by the next scheduled pairing, the higher seed will automatically be selected to walk over.

Speaker Point Scale

We will use a 30-point speaker point scale with tenths of a point allowed, with no ties between the debaters. We will institute a floor of 25.0 which ought to be reserved for debaters who exhibit reprehensible behaviour and/or argumentation. Forfeits and teams found guilty of card-clipping will receive 0 points.

Internet Usage

As debate enters the 21st century, Internet access will be allowed for competitors. A WiFi password will be made open for use and is actively encouraged for teams in round to exchange files to opponents and judges rather than flashing. Evidence or sources that are found online during a round are permissible to be presented in said round.

Communication with anyone online but especially out of round teammates or coaches is strongly prohibited and may result in disqualification. Coaches found to be communicating with students in round will have their immediately programme disqualified.





Entries

Fees

\$8 per team from programmes that host a tournament, \$10 per team from schools that do not host a tournament. Additional entries made post deadline will have an additional \$2 fee.

Teams from Urban Debate Leagues are exempt from entry fees.

Cheques should be made out to: *Andover Central High School*

603 E Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002

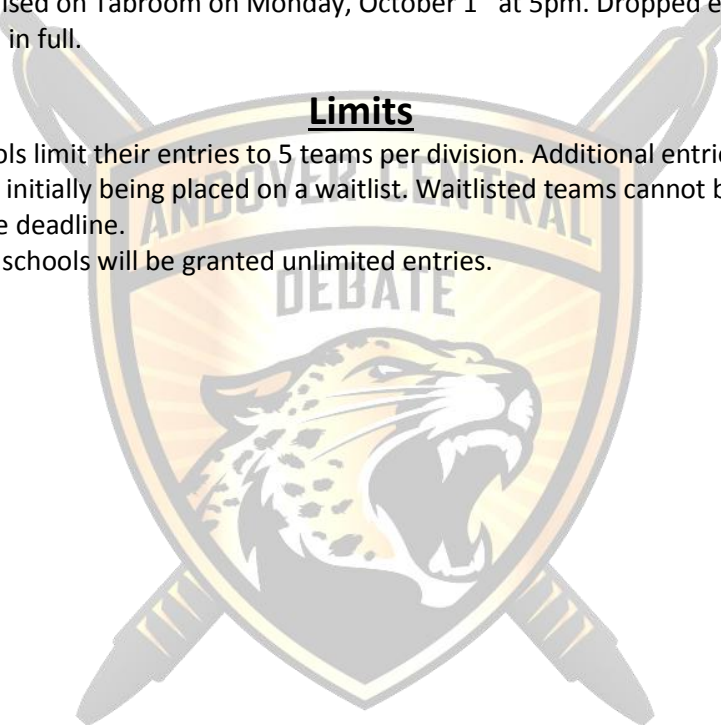
Deadline

Entries should be finalised on Tabroom on Monday, October 1st at 5pm. Dropped entries past the 1st deadline must be paid in full.

Limits

We request that schools limit their entries to 5 teams per division. Additional entries will more than likely be granted after initially being placed on a waitlist. Waitlisted teams cannot be guaranteed to compete until post the deadline.

Urban Debate League schools will be granted unlimited entries.





Judging

We are always actively looking for judges but are also committed to ensuring an experienced and well-rounded judging pool. There will be a very active emphasis on recruiting talented and experienced judges. We would like to have as many experienced judges have as many ballots as possible. Current and former NDT-CEDA debaters will be prioritized in the higher calibre divisions and actively encourage NPDA/NFALD debaters to contact us to reserve ballots of their choosing.

This may mean that your teams may have “dirty” experienced judges in preliminary rounds although we will attempt to avoid this practice. All judges will be marked “clean” for elimination rounds.

If you know of any current or former college debater that would like to give back and volunteer to judge in Aaron's memory, please contact me.

Judging Anti-Harassment Clause

All judges who actively participate in the Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational at Andover Central are agreeing to be a crucial part of the education process of young people. As such, judges ought to view their participation as part of a process of meaningful pedagogy that is free of explicit bias and discrimination. By accepting a ballot, judges are agreeing to abstain from decisions and commentary that are racist, classist, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, or are in any other way expressly problematic. This includes observations or remarks about the physical appearance and attire of students that are disparaging or intended to harass someone's affiliation as a member of a protected class.

Judges who fail to adhere to this policy will be immediately removed from the pool and their school will be subject to a \$50 fine.

Disclosure of Decisions and Oral Critique Policy

The Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational at Andover Central serves as both a competitive and educational forum for debaters, coaches, and judges. As such, the tournament encourages judge-debater interaction by making decision disclosures and giving oral critiques. Oral critiques are not mandatory and competitors should abstain from requesting feedback – critiques will happen naturally or not at all. Teams are expected to be respectful and free of hostility to judges regardless of a decision or risk disqualification.

Judges: please submit your ballot online or turn in a your paper ballot to the ballot table before giving any post-round feedback. Please limit oral critiques to no longer than 5 minutes.

Novice Judging

Any third or fourth year debaters may judge in the Novice division. After the Varsity division's advancing bracket is announced, any third or fourth year debaters from non-clearing teams may register as a judge for the Novice division elimination rounds.

Experienced debaters serving as Novices judges are subject to the Anti-Harassment Clause.

Current debaters serving as judges are not permitted to give oral critiques.





Forfeit Policy

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit imposed at the exclusive discretion of the event tournament staff. Judges should alert the tabroom once the 15 minute mark has passed without both teams present. Forfeiture necessitates a loss and 0 speaker points. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late.

Card Clipping

Card clipping is one of the more serious intellectual sins plaguing the activity which deserves grave attention and sincere attempts to deter the practice. Our definition of card clipping is similar to the National Debate Coaches Association which currently defines card clipping as follows, “A judge should find **clipping has occurred when a debater represents they have read five words or more that they did not read in any speech.** If the judge finds that clipping has occurred the penalty is a loss for the team and zero speaker points for the debater who “clipped.” Additionally, **clipping also includes the practice of intentionally highlighting/reading evidence to propose an argument clearly contrary to the author’s/evidence’s intent.**

Technical malfunction isn’t an excuse for clipping. Debaters have an obligation to accurately represent the material they have read. If a judge finds that students represented they read material that they did not read then it’s clipping and penalties should be imposed even if the judge doesn’t think there was ill intent.

Students/judges should not prematurely end the round if they believe clipping is to have occurred

Judges should wait until the end of the round and notify the tournament director and offer a brief explanation. If the judge’s concerns are validated, the tournament director will validate the penalty.

Debaters who believe that their opponents are guilty of clipping should bring this grievance to their coach who in turn should notify the tournament director.

There are three possible outcomes:

- If a team is found guilty of clipping, the penalty is a loss and zero speaker points.
- If there is an investigation and no clipping is to have been found, the judge’s original decision will be preserved.
- If a team is believed to have dishonestly fabricated a false accusation of clipping the penalty is a loss and zero speaker points for both debaters on the team who made the false accusation.





Schedule

<u>FRIDAY OCT 5</u>		<u>SATURDAY OCT 6</u>			
3:00pm	Registration	7:40am	Varsity and JV: Pairings for Round 4 & 5	Novice: Pairings for Round 1 and 2	
3:40	Pairings for Round 1 and Round 2	8:00am	Round 4: Varsity, JV	Round 1: Novice	
4:00pm	Round 1 – Varsity, JV	10:00am	Round 5: Varsity, JV	Round 2: Novice	
5:45pm	Round 2 – Varsity, JV	<u>Lunch Break</u>			
<u>Dinner Break</u>		1:00pm	Varsity: Pairings for Round 6	JV: Bracket released	Novice: Pairings for Round 3
7:30pm	Pairings for Round 3	1:30pm	Varsity: Round 6	JV: Quarterfinal	Novice: Round 3
8:00pm	Round 3 – Varsity, JV	<u>Awards Ceremony</u> (3rd /4th Year Non-Advancing Debaters May Register as Novice Judges Following Ceremony)			
		5:15pm	Varsity Quarterfinals	JV: Semifinals	Novice: Round 4
		7:00pm	Varsity: Semifinals	JV: Finals	Novice: Round 5
		8:35pm	Varsity: Finals		Novice: Finals

Meals

We are looking to secure food services and will update the invitation as we get closer to that date





Awards

The Jane Rinehart Coach of the Year Award

This award will go out annually to a selected coach of nominated candidates that reflect the values Jane Rinehart exhibited in her career. After turning down multiple lucrative offers to coach at prestigious programmes, Jane Rinehart decided to coach debate in the urban core at Kansas City Central – a school plagued by incompetent administration part of a failing and unaccredited district. Despite the lack of funds, inadequate budget promises, and even enmity from countless coaches in her state, Jane Rinehart transformed Kansas City Central into one of the nation’s most competitive powerhouses regularly being private schools. Jane’s refusal to acquiesce to the run of the mill conventions that her students were less capable helped countless students including Aaron Thomas, Ryan Wash, Marcus Leach, Brandon Dial, Dominique Baker, Ebony Rose, and several other collegiate debate legends find their passion and voice. Kansas City Central was the first high school debate programme to bring performative kritikal debate from college to the local and national circuits, revolutionizing knowledge production in the activity which caught so much attention Jane and her students were the subjects of the terrific book by Joe Miller “Cross-X”. Often times Jane transcended her role as coach to also include caretaking and giving her students a room to live in, sometimes for years. She continues to house and care for young people as her generosity is seemingly endless.

Nominations for Coach of the Year will be accepted until September 28th. Any student, assistant, or coach may nominate a coach – we ask for a letter to be written on behalf of the candidate sent to jouyas@usd385.org

We will select a worthy candidate who epitomizes Jane Rinehart’s resolve, fortitude, selflessness, grit, and passion to increase inclusivity to marginalized students in debate.

Sweepstakes Awards

We will give awards to the Top Five schools which will comprise of a weighted aggregate score of the top two entries in each division.

Varsity entry points will be multiplied by 2, JV entry points will be multiplied by 1.5, Novice entry points will be counted as is – the sum of these totals accounts for sweepstake rankings

Each school that places will receive a plaque.

Speaker Awards

We will recognize the Top Ten speakers in the Varsity and JV division – in keeping with the tradition of Aaron Thomas, Gates BBQ sauce bottles(Aaron’s favourite) will be given away as speaker awards.

Students will be able to select their own “Walk Up Song” that will be played as they go up to receive their award.

Top Speaker Champion Belt

In our first hosting of a tournament, Aaron and I purchased an incredible replica WWE belt and customized it to award the Varsity division Top Speaker. We will continue that tradition as it will be a **traveling award** that will have the Top Speaker’s name forever engraved on the plates of the belt along with their school name and year as it will be passed down annually.

