



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Dear Student Competitors and Supporters:

We are pleased to welcome you to the City of Cambridge for the 45th Annual National Harvard Speech and Debate Tournament. Congratulations to the more than 5,000 competitors participating in the tournament, and to all the teachers, organizers, coaches, and family members who have contributed to making this weekend a success.

I would like to offer a special greeting to the students from Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. Your leadership for stronger gun laws in the wake of the tragedy you experienced has been inspiring.

As you prepare for spirited competition, I hope you will find inspiration in the communities and institutions that have long played stage to the ideas and voices that shape our world. Walk our streets. Visit our museums and historic places. Explore each of our diverse and lively public squares, and most importantly, have fun!

I hope to impart my own bit of inspiration, taken from the poetry of Mr. John Holmes (uncle to the more famous Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.), who wrote:

The old time Cambridge had no book
Of color blue and gold,
Which to a searcher in the town
His right direction told

No names of numbers then of streets
Were to the people known;
Each to the questioner showed the way,
By methods of his own.

I offer this quotation for two reasons. First, I hope you will have a chance to experience the friendliness of our residents, who may still offer their own directions to favorite attractions or coffee shops around the City for you to enjoy. Second, and more importantly, there are so many worthy ideas that are needing of an advocate, but which remain unspoken, and unheard. As we foray into the unfamiliar territory of new challenges and inequities, I encourage you to show us the way—by methods of your own—to higher truths and justice.

The best of luck to all competitors, and here's to a memorable tournament!

Sincerely,