



**Elkins High School**  
"Home of the Tigers"

## **Rich Mountain Speech + Debate Festival**

**November 3rd, 2018**

Dear Coaches, Parents, and Students,

You are cordially invited to attend the inaugural Rich Mountain Speech + Debate Festival at Elkins High School. This tournament is designed specifically for individuals and teams who are new to speech and debate. It is intended to be a fun and engaging event that will spark interest in students and further the development of emerging speech and debate teams in the highlands of West Virginia.

To achieve these goals, we will break with the traditional tournament paradigm by offering more low preparation events and by also running non-traditional events. We want students to walk away from this tournament excited and ready to start or grow teams at their own schools. It is our intention that any student who has a basic understanding of the rules of an event will be able to complete and succeed in our tournament.

We will offer the following debate events:

Parliamentary Debate (CFA Rules)  
Extemporaneous Debate (NSDA Rules)  
Big Questions Debate (NSDA Rules)

We will offer the following individual events:

Impromptu Speaking (NSDA Rules)  
Extemporaneous Speaking (Modified NSDA Rules)  
Improvisation Pairs (CFA Rules)  
Slam Poetry  
Liars Contest (WV Culture Rules)  
After Dinner Speaking  
Programmed Oral Interpretation (NSDA Rules)

Students can elect to enter as many forms of debate as desired but cannot be entered in both Parliamentary Debate and an individual event. Students may enter a maximum of two individual events. Entries are \$10 per event. Entry fees will be waived for students from Webster, Randolph, Pocahontas, Pendleton, Tucker, Barbour, Upshur, Grant, Mineral, Hampshire and Hardy Counties.

It is my hope that this the first step in growing speech and debate in this part of the state. Attached in this packet is a tentative schedule of events, rules for all events, and instructions on how to enter using [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com).

Best,

Andrew Carroll  
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## **Tentative Schedule**

9-9:30 || Registration (EHS Media Center)

9:30 || Welcome

9:45 || Big Question Debate Round 1

10:45 || Extemporaneous Debate Rounds 1 + 2

11:45 || Individual Events Round 1 & Parliamentary Debate Round 1

12:45-1:15 || Lunch Break (Lunch items will be for sale)

1:20 || Big Question Debate Round 2

2:20 || Individual Events Round 2 & Parliamentary Debate Round 2

3:20 || Big Question Debate Round 3

4:20 || Extemporaneous Debate Round 3

5:20 || Individual Events Round 3 & Parliamentary Debate Round 3

6:30 || Awards (Top 6 in each event + Top 3 teams)

## Event Descriptions and Guidelines

### 1. Debate Events

- a. **Parliamentary Debate:** This format of debate is a great place for new debaters to start because they compete with a partner and topics change each round. To complete in the event students should practice researching, preparing, and delivering well organized arguments on various topics ranging from current events to controversial topics.

To begin each round a topic will be posted in a common area, and once the topic is posted, teams will have 15 minutes to prepare in their assigned computer lab. Teams will then move to their assigned room to meet their judge and begin their debate.

Speaking times are as follows:

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes

First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes

Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

Points of order and personal privilege are permissible at any point and are addressed to and adjudicated by the judge; points of information are permissible only during the four constructive speeches, and then not during the first and last minutes and not unless recognized by the debater speaking. Judges will be expected to award the decision to the team that persuaded them, with a recognition that persuasion is a product of both the argumentation and public speaking skill. (*Adapted from the College Forensics Association*)

- b. **Extemporaneous Debate:** This form of debate is another great event for beginning debaters. In this format of debate students go head to head on a new topic each round\*. After the topic is posted students will have 30 minutes to research the topic in their assigned provided computer lab. They will then move to their assigned room to meet their judge and begin their debate.

Speaking times are as follows:

Proposition Constructive || 2 minutes || The debater in favor of the resolution presents his or her case/position in support of the topic.

Cross Examination of Proposition || 1 minute || The opposition debater asks the proposition questions.

Opposition Constructive || 2 minutes || The debater against the resolution or the proposition's case presents his or her case/position.

Cross Examination of Opposition || 1 minute || The proposition debater asks the opposition questions.

Mandatory Prep Time || 1 minute || Both debaters have one minute to prepare their rebuttals.

Proposition Rebuttal || 2 minutes || The proposition debater refutes the main idea of the opposition and supports their main ideas.

Opposition Rebuttal || 2 minutes || The opposition debater refutes the main idea of the proposition and supports their main ideas.

Mandatory Prep Time || 1 minute || Both debaters have one minute to prepare their rebuttals.

Proposition Rebuttal || 2 minutes || In this final speech the proposition crystallizes the round for the judge and tries to establish sufficient reason for a vote in favor of the resolution.

Opposition Rebuttal || 2 minutes || In this final speech the opposition crystallizes the round for the judge and tries to establish sufficient reason for a vote against the proposition's case and/or the resolution.

\*For scheduling purposes students will use the same topic during rounds 1 and 2 (which will occur back-to-back). In round 2 students will debate a new opponent from the side of the topic they did not debate the first round. (*Adapted from NSDA*)

- c. Big Questions Debate: We are excited to offer Big Questions Debate for those students who have a desire to wrestle with ideas that are more ethereal in nature. Big Questions is a one-on-one debate that focuses on topics that concern the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Students are assigned a side of the topic before each round and present cases, engage in rebuttal and refutation, and participate in a question period. The National Speech & Debate Association supports this format of debate through a grant from John Templeton Foundation.

This year's topic is as follows:

**Resolved: Humans are primarily driven by self-interest.**

Speaking times are as follows:

Affirmative Constructive || 5 minutes || Present case

Negative Constructive || 5 minutes || Present case

Question Segment || 3 minutes || Alternate asking and answering questions

Affirmative Rebuttal || 4 minutes || Refute the opposing side's arguments

Negative Rebuttal || 4 minutes || Refute the opposing side's arguments

Question Segment || 3 minutes || Alternate asking and answering questions

Affirmative Consolidation || 3 minutes || Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round

Negative Consolidation || 3 minutes || Begin crystallizing the main issues in the round

Affirmative Rationale || 2 minutes || Explain reasons that you win the round

Negative Rationale || 2 minutes || Explain reasons that you win the round

\*Each team is entitled to five minutes of prep time during the round.

(Adapted from *NSDA*)

## 2. Speech Events

- a. **Impromptu Speaking:** Impromptu speaking is a low preparation event that tests student's ability speak on a wide range of topics with minimal preparation. Students will draw three topics, choose one and return the other two. They will then have seven minutes to divide between preparation and speaking time. Topics will be quotations that the speaker may interpret creatively. Notes are permitted. (Adapted from the CFA)
- b. **Extemporaneous Speaking:** This event tests the students' ability to research and answer a question related to domestic or current affairs. Students will choose a topic and will have 30 minutes to prepare, with the aid of a computer for research, a five to seven minute speech that answers the question posed by that topic. Topics will be drawn from newsworthy events of the 30 days previous to the tournament. Notes are permitted. (Adapted from CFA)
- c. **Improvisation Pairs:** This is a great event for students to simply do for the fun of it. Think "Whose Line is it Anyway?" with a few extra rules. In pairs, students will be given a scenario to act out. After viewing the topic students will have eight minutes to divide between preparing and acting out their scenario. They should focus on reaching a conclusion and solving the problem presented in the scenario.
- d. **Slam Poetry:** Slam Poetry is an experimental event that gives students a chance to show off and perform their original poetry. Students should prepare a five to ten minute program of original poetry that can be performed from memory or notes. Students will be judged on the following: vocal quality, use of body, cohesiveness of the performance, use of language, and overall effect.
- e. **Liars Contest:** This event is inspired and modeled after the West Virginia Liars Contest that takes place at the Vandalia Gathering each year. Students should prepare a 'lie' that last no longer than five minutes. Lies should be original tales—short stories—constructed by the student. Lies will be judged on technique, story development, originality, and overall effect.
- f. **After Dinner Speaking:** This is a five to ten minutes speech that attempts to address a serious topic through humor. Minimal notes may be used.
- g. **Programmed Oral Interpretation:** See NSDA Rules.

## **How to Enter**

All entries for this tournament will be done online using tabroom.com. If problems arise questions can be sent to me via email at [andrew.carroll@k12.wv.us](mailto:andrew.carroll@k12.wv.us).

1. Create an account on tabroom.com.
2. After creating your account navigate to richmountainfestival.tabroom.com.
3. On the left of the page, select the tab that says register.
4. On the right side of your screen will be menu options to select an event and then add students to that event.
5. Continue until all students are entered into their proper events.