



Dear Coaches and Friends,

It will be our sincere pleasure to host you at the annual Columbia University Invitational this coming weekend. I look forward to an efficiently administered tournament that facilitates the highest level of competition.

First, I'd like to make sure that your students have all received the contestant information packets available at <http://columbiadebate.org/invitational/congress-legislation-2012>: the Rules/Schedule, the Chamber Assignments, and the Preliminary Legislation Packet. Please have your students download the forms from the site as soon as possible if they have not done so already.

It is important to note the changes in the format of debate from preliminary to semi-final to final round debate. In a nut shell, preliminary debate is "standard" congress, the semi-final round involves impromptu committee work, and the final round hinges upon a scenario. All the details of these three formats are outlined in the Rules/Schedule Packet. In several days, we will release potential scenario topics for the final round and the semi-final legislation topics.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the registration process, which is outlined in the **onsite registration** section of the following page: <http://columbiadebate.org/invitational/registration>. We ask that each coach abides by these procedures.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions. See you in Morningside Heights and good luck!

Alex Smyk
Congressional Debate Director
Ats2142@columbia.edu
908.285.4740