



Coaches,

We are excited to invite you to our 2nd-ever (too early to say annual yet) Mustang Debate Invitational on January 10-11, 2020. Registration is now open on Tabroom at murrah.tabroom.com.

Our tournament will offer competition in open divisions of **Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Policy, Big Questions**, and **Congressional Debate** over a 2-day schedule.

We will also offer **middle-school** divisions of **Public Forum** and **Big Questions** on Saturday only.

In high-school PF, Policy, and LD, the Mustang Invitational is a qualifier for the MHSAA State Speech & Debate Tournament (April 24-25 at Madison Central High School).

Please look over the relevant information below, especially the schedule, which will be a bit different from our typical Mississippi tournament, and the information for middle school events and Big Questions.

~~Note that middle-school Public Forum will use the Sep/Oct 2019 Lincoln-Douglas topic: *Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities ought not consider standardized tests in undergraduate admissions decisions.*~~

Middle-school Public Forum will use the topic, Resolved: Plea bargaining should be ruled unconstitutional.

***For Middle School teams only:** I realize Tabroom is new to you and a lot to deal with for a single tournament. In lieu of Tabroom, I will accept emailed registrations until 11:30pm on Tuesday, January 7th. **Please** send it earlier than that, however, so that I have a sense of which schools are coming and I can clarify all entries.

High school entries **must** be entered on Tabroom.

E-mail me with any questions at murrahlatin@gmail.com.

We hope to see you in Jackson in January!

Events & Topics

There will be NO DOUBLE-ENTRY at the tournament. All high-school events will run simultaneously on Friday and Saturday. Middle-school events will run on Saturday only.

There are no NOVICE divisions. Entries in the high-school division must be enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Entries in the middle-school division must be enrolled in 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

In all debate events, electronic devices and internet connectivity are allowed, but may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs (see MHSAA electronic device rules).

At this time, I cannot guarantee that internet connectivity will be available, but I'm going to work on it with our school district tech folks, and I'll keep you updated.

Big Questions Debate

Schools may register up to **six** entries in the high-school division, **four** in the middle-school division. Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list.

Students, coaches, and judges should be sure to review the [Big Questions Manual](#). Students and coaches should take advantage of the [free resources](#) on the NSDA website, including lesson plans, sample constructives, topic analysis, and evidence packet..

At the Mustang Invitational, Big Questions will be a **1-on-1** event only. There will be no teams.

The timing, following the manual, is 5-5-3-4-4-3-3-3-3, with 3 minutes of prep time.

As a part of the NSDA's Big Questions project, student participants and judges (as well as any audience members for elimination rounds) will be required to submit a brief post-debate **survey** at the end of the tournament.

The same topic will be used for both high school and middle school divisions - *Resolved: Objective morality exists.*

Congressional Debate

Schools may register up to **eight** entries. Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list.

Each preliminary chamber will have 24 or fewer competitors. The total number advancing to the final Super Congress session will be determined by the number of preliminary chambers established.

The Prelim bill book for Congressional Debate will be the bills originally designated in the [MHSAA Bill Book](#). (These bills and resolutions were submitted by MHSAA member schools at the beginning of the 2019-2020 Season.) The Super Session will involve a specific set of topics or a scenario, which will be announced at least one week prior to the tournament.

Preliminary Legislation (see link above; list is on page 4):

- Round 1: D: License Endorsement for Rideshare Drivers
- G: Corporate Accountability for Climate Change
- R: Satellite Protection
- CC: Ban Online Pornography
- II: Abolish TSA
- NN: Modify Social Security

Round 2: C: Sanctions on Nations Trafficking Black Rhino Horns

I: LGBT+ Tax Return Reparations Post-DOMA
M: Ban Corporal Punishment in Public Schools
W: Public Ed. Offices - Background Requirement
AA: Ban Waste Dumping in Public Waters
JJ: Legalize Organ Sales

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Schools may register up to **six** entries. Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list.

The debate will follow the standard 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format, with 4 minutes of prep time.

NSDA/MHSAA rules will apply.

Sides will be assigned in rounds 1-4. A coin toss will determine sides in Round 5 and elimination rounds, unless priors meet, in which case sides will be locked.

The topic will be the NSDA Jan/Feb 2020 Topic: ***Resolved: States ought to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.***

Public Forum Debate

Schools may register up to **six** entries in the high-school division, **four** in the middle-school division.

Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list.

The debate will follow the updated NSDA timing with 3 minute summaries and 3 minutes of Prep time: (4-4-3-4-4-3-**3-3-3-2-2**)

NSDA/MHSAA rules will apply.

We **will** use a coin toss each round to determine sides and speaker order. The winner of the toss will choose *either* side *or* speaker order, and the loser of the toss will choose the remaining option. The coin toss will determine sides/order in *every* round, prelims and elims, regardless of priors meeting.

The **HIGH SCHOOL** topic will be the NSDA Jan 2020 Topic: ***Resolved: The United States should end its economic sanctions against Venezuela.***

The **MIDDLE SCHOOL** topic will be the NSDA Sep/Oct 2019 LD Topic - ~~***Resolved: In the United States, colleges and universities ought not consider standardized tests in undergraduate admissions decisions.***~~ ***Resolved: Plea bargaining should be ruled unconstitutional.***

~~To clarify, middle school PF teams are expected to debate the topic as a Public Forum topic, following all relevant PF rules and norms. We are *not* asking them to offer a value/criterion or expecting any other LD standards from them.~~

Policy Debate

Schools may register up to **six** entries. Additional entries will be placed on a waiting list.

The debate will follow the standard 8-3-8-3-8-3-8-3-5-5-5-5 format, with 5 minutes of prep time. NSDA/MHSAA rules will apply.

Sides will be assigned in preliminary rounds. A coin toss will determine sides in elimination rounds, unless priors meet, in which case sides will be locked.

The topic will be the NFHS 2019-20 topic - ***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.***

Schedule

Friday, January 10

4:00pm - School Dismisses

Please do not arrive on campus before 4:30pm.

High School LD, PF, BQ 5:30pm - Round 1 7:00pm - Round 2 8:30pm - Round 3	Policy 5:30pm - Round 1 7:30pm - Round 2	Congress 5:45-8:45pm - Session 1
--	--	-------------------------------------

Saturday, January 11

High School LD, PF, BQ 8:30am - Round 4 10:30am - Round 5 12:30pm- Quarterfinals 2:30pm - Semis 4:00pm - Finals	Policy 8:30am - Round 3 10:30am - Round 4 12:30pm - Round 5 2:30pm - Semis 4:00pm - Finals	Congress 8:45am-11:45am - Session 2 1:30pm-4:30pm - Finals
Middle School PF, BQ 9:00am - Round 1 10:30am - Round 2 12:30pm - Round 3 2:30pm - Semis		

4:00pm - Finals		
-----------------	--	--

6:00pm - Awards

Sweeps and Awards

In Congressional Debate, the top 8 competitors from the Super Session will be recognized with awards.

In high-school Public Forum, Big Questions, Policy, and Lincoln-Douglas, the top 8 entries will be recognized with awards (i.e. Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists, and Finalists).

In middle-school Public Forum and Big Questions, the top 4 entries will be recognized with awards (i.e. Semifinalists and Finalists).

Sweepstakes

The top three high-school teams will be awarded Sweepstakes awards. Our formula will match the MHSAA formula, with the addition of points from Big Questions debate:

First Place Finalist = 8 points

Second Place Finalist = 6 points

Non-Advancing Semifinalists (or 3rd & 4th places in Congress) = 4 points

Non-Advancing Quarterfinalists (5th-8th places in Congress) = 3 points

Middle-school entries will *not* earn sweepstakes points.

Hotels

We do not have any specific hotel partners at this time. For teams who have not travelled to Jackson for previous tournaments or who do not have a favorite hotel already picked out, we would recommend choosing a hotel **on I-55 North or Lakeland Drive**. Both areas will provide quick access to Murrah High School.

Directions

Please do not arrive on campus before 4:30pm.

Murrah High School is located near the Woodrow Wilson exit from I-55 (exit 98A). Note that exit 98A is a **left** exit if you are coming from the south.

Take exit 98A, and once you are on Woodrow Wilson, take the first available left. It's the second light, but the first that you can turn left at.

After turning left from Woodrow Wilson, turn right onto Peachtree, then left up the hill into our west (faculty) parking lot. You may enter the school on this west side of the building. Here's a [map](#), if you're more of a visual person. If you prefer, you can also park/enter in the front of the building on Murrah Drive, but the West Entrance offers better parking options.

Judges

Each school should provide judges based on their number of entries:

In Public Forum, Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Big Questions:

1 judge for every 2 entries in each event

In Congress:

Every school entered in Congress should provide 1 judge

Note that judges are not limited to judging a single event. Judges signed up to fill a quota in one event **will likely be asked to judge another event**. This will help us balance judge needs with school-affiliation conflicts.

All judges are obligated to judge one round past the round in which their school has been eliminated.

For **middle school** Public Forum and Big Questions, judges MAY be high-school debaters. They should have earned **at least 250 NSDA points** (Degree of Distinction) in order to be considered eligible judges. A student competing in high-school divisions at the tournament, however, should not be signed up to judge, since they would be double-booked for competing *and* judging.

Entry Fees

High School

\$10.00 per solo entry (LD, BQ, Congress)

\$12.00 per team entry (Policy, PF)

Middle School

\$5.00 per solo entry (BQ)

\$10.00 per team entry (PF)

Registration on Tabroom will remain open until **11:30pm on Tuesday, January 7th**. No additional entries will be allowed after that deadline. Any drops after that deadline should be e-mailed to Micah Everson at murrahlatin@gmail.com and **will be charged a double entry fee**.

Judge Fees

\$25.00 per uncovered judge in high school divisions

\$15.00 per uncovered judge in middle school divisions

Judges may be added on Tabroom **until 11:30pm on Wednesday, January 8th**. Judge fees will be set at that point.