



The Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational at Mill Valley 2019

Dear Colleagues,

You and your programme are cordially invited to attend the 2nd Annual Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational to be hosted at Mill Valley High School on November 15 & 16, 2019. We are committed to having an excellent judging pool that will be one of the best in the entire Midwest, an unrivaled hospitality room, and beautiful, unique awards. Additionally, sponsors are providing summer debate institute scholarships and opportunities to be livestreamed online.

We offer Policy debate in the following divisions: Varsity (contestants will be eligible for Kansas Debate Coaches Invitational bids), Junior Varsity, Novice, and Middle School. **In partnering with the Mean Green Comet Debate Institute hosted by the University of North Texas and the University of Texas - Dallas, students will have the opportunity to be awarded significant scholarships to the MGCDI at our awards ceremony via a raffle.**

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.

We will offer awards for all elimination participants awards in each division as well as unique speaker awards. Like last 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 three placing programmes with a weighted formula which prioritizes the Varsity division. We will also be presenting the Jane Rinehart Coach of the Year Award and will accept nominations up to the week prior to the tournament. Our goal is have a true and proper awards ceremony, please have your students be prepared for that.

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 able to compensate experienced and highly qualified judges \$10 per round.**

Best,
Sohail Jouya
Director of Debate
Mill Valley High School





General Regulations

Event Format

The tournament will host 6 Varsity, 5 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 DEBATE-KC Breakout session. *There will be a total of 8 minutes of preparation time for each team.*

“Flashing” will not count 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.

For Kansas schools, our tournament has been awarded a Kansas Debate Coaches Invitational bid. Bids will be allocated in the following increments: Top 16/Octofinals (with a 50% winning percentage or higher) – 1 bid; Quarterfinals – 2 bids; Semifinals – 3 bids; Finals – 4 bids; Tournament Champions – 5 bids.

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.





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Entries

Fees

\$10 per team. 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: *Mill Valley High School*

Deadline

Entries should be finalised on Tabroom on Friday, November 8th at 3pm. Dropped entries past the deadline must be paid in full.

Limits

Schools may request up to 6 total team entries, additional entries may be negotiated post a waitlist in exchange for additional obligated judges or alternative agreement.

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. Additional entries may be requested.

For every teams in the Varsity/DCI division, a highly qualified judge must be available for 3 rounds and any consequent elimination rounds.

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.

We are able to compensate experienced and highly qualified judges \$10 per round.

Additionally, we will allow eliminated JV debaters to judge round 3 and 4 of our middle school division.





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Divisions

Varsity (DCI)

This will be the top division of the tournament and our most experienced judges will be reserved in a pool. **For Kansas schools, our tournament has been awarded a Kansas Debate Coaches Invitational bid.** Bids will be allocated in the following increments: Top 16/Octofinals (with a 50% winning percentage or higher) – 1 bid; Quarterfinals – 2 bids; Semifinals – 3 bids; Finals – 4 bids; Tournament Champions – 5 bids.

For each entry, we request 3 rounds of coverage from a volunteer who is a qualified adjudicator with an active Tabroom account. It is likely we won't use the entirety of coverage for those judges and we reserve the ability to place those judges in divisions where we believe it is most suitable. If any programme is having difficulties in securing adequate judging, please contact the tournament director.

There will be 6 rounds of competition where we will break to quarterfinals. Rounds 1 and 2 are randomly preset and each subsequent round will be power-matched high-low for each relevant bracket. All elimination rounds will have a panel of three judges.

Tiebreakers will be in the following order: Win-Loss record, single drop high-low speaker points, double drop high-low, ranks, opponent record, and Z score.

All Varsity/DCI participants must sign a media release form in the event that they are to be livestreamed.

Exodus Files will provide livestreaming services and will stream at least one round for each preliminary round and elimination round as well. Teams who do not want to be livestreamed should contact the tournament director. Finals will be livestreamed, teams who want to be eligible for finals will need to fill out the release form.

JV

The JV division is exclusively reserved for students in their first or second year in debate. There are no instituted case limits. The Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational is committed to having a robust and healthy JV division – it is an often overlooked sector of tournaments but one of the most crucial in keep regional debate alive.

We will have a JV division regardless of the number of entries, directors should be made aware that most JV teams will be accepted of the waitlist.

The majority of judges in this division will be provided by DCI judge coverage.

There will be 5 rounds of competition where we will break to quarterfinals. Rounds 1 and 2 are randomly preset and each subsequent round will be power-matched high-low for each relevant bracket. All elimination rounds will have a panel of three judges.

Tiebreakers will be in the following order: Win-Loss record, single drop high-low speaker points, double drop high-low, ranks, opponent record, and Z score.





JV Debaters Serving as Middle School Judges

Debaters in the JV division who did not advance to elimination rounds have an opportunity to judge two middle school debate rounds with DEBATE-Kansas City.

Students who wish to be judges will be eligible for additional NSDA points and must sign up immediately after the awards ceremony. Judges are expected to be polite, accommodating, and aware of their role as a de facto educator helping very young students.

Open

The Open division will be a Saturday-only, five round competition with no elimination rounds. Students of any grade or experience level may enter.

The majority of judges in this division will be provided our community pool.

Rounds 1 and 2 are randomly preset and each subsequent round will be power-matched high-low for each relevant bracket.

Tiebreakers will be in the following order: Win-Loss record, opponent wins, ranks score, single drop high-low ranks, and opponent ranks.

Novice

Novice students are defined as students who are in their first year of debate competition. In order to put emphasis on the importance of fostering meaningful first-year experiences for new debaters, we will have a two day tournament with five rounds of preliminary competition and subsequent elimination rounds from quarterfinals on.

There will be a strong effort to put quality judges with debate experience into some novice preliminary rounds but especially in the elimination rounds. The majority of judges in this division will be provided our community pool.

There will be 5 rounds of competition where we will break to quarterfinals. Rounds 1 and 2 are randomly preset and each subsequent round will be power-matched high-low for each relevant bracket. All elimination rounds will have a panel of three judges.

Tiebreakers will be in the following order: Win-Loss record, opponent wins, ranks score, single drop high-low ranks, and opponent ranks.





Judging Anti-Harassment Clause

All judges who actively participate in the Aaron Thomas Memorial Invitational at Mill Valley 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 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 before giving any post-round feedback. Please limit oral critiques to no longer than 5 minutes.

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.





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Schedule

DIVISIONS	Friday 3:30pm	Friday 5:30pm	Friday 7:30pm	Saturday 8:00am	Saturday 10:00am	Saturday 12:00pm	AWARDS	Saturday 3:30pm	Saturday 5:30pm	Saturday 7:00pm
Varsity/DCI	1 Preset	2 Preset	3 Hi-Lo (1-2)	4 Hi-Lo (1-3)	5 Hi-Lo (1-4)	6 Hi-Lo (1- 5)		Quarters - 3 Panel	Semis - 3 Panel	Finals - 3 Panel
JV	1 Preset	2 Preset	3 Hi-Lo (1-2)	4 Hi-Lo (1-3)	5 Hi-Lo (1-4)	Quarters - 3 Panel		Semis - 3 Panel	Finals - 3 Panel	
Novice	1 Preset	2 Preset	3 Hi-Lo (1-2)	4 Hi-Lo (1-3)	5 Hi-Lo (1-4)	Quarters - 3 Panel		Semis - 3 Panel	Finals - 3 Panel	
DKC Breakout								Semis - 3 Panel	Finals - 3 Panel	

DIVISIONS	Saturday 8:00am	Saturday 9:45am	Saturday 12:00pm	Saturday 1:45pm	Saturday 3:00pm
Open	1 Preset	2 Preset	3 Hi-Lo (1)	4 Hi-Lo (1-2)	5 Hi-Lo (1-4)
Middle School	1 Preset	2 Preset	EXTENDED LUNCH	3 Hi-Lo (1-2)	4 Hi-Lo (1-2)

Meals

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





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Awards

We will have a full and proper awards ceremony with a multiple presentations from college coaches in the D3 region in addition to MGCDI scholarship prizes to be raffled off. Please prepare your students and coaches to be prepared.

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 November 8th. Any student, assistant, or coach may nominate a coach – we ask for a letter to be written on behalf of the candidate sent to sohailjouya@gmail.com

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.

Past winners:

Jamelle Brown, Sumner Academy - 2019

Sweepstakes Awards

We will give awards to the Top Three schools that 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 in the Top Three will receive a plaque.





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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.





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Past Winners

2018

Sweepstakes

Champion – Maize High School, Coached by Curtis Shepard

Jane Rinehart Coach of the Year

Jamelle Brown – Sumner Academy

Varsity Champions: Trinity Academy - David Koster & Noah Greene, Coached by Wesley Cornett

Varsity Top Speaker: Jason Liang-Lin, Maize

JV Champions: Hutchinson - Jenna Ramsey & Adriana Owens, Coached by Melissa Anne Hathaway Loepp

Novice Champions: Sumner Academy - Dakota Scott & Ariana Lindsay, Coached by Jamelle Brown

Novice Top Speaker: Konnor Fleming, Hutchinson





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Varsity

2018

Champions: Trinity Academy - David Koster & Noah Greene, Coached by Wesley Cornett

Finalists:

Maize - Alexander Broyles & Jason Liang-Lin, Coached by Curtis Shepard

Semifinalists:

Hutchinson - Kian Williams & Jacob Unruh, Coached by Melissa Anne Hathaway Loepp

Maize - Amanda Branom & Jeannine Lopez, Coached by Curtis Shepard

Speaker Awards

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Top Speaker	Jason Liang-Lin	Maize
2	David Koster	Trinity
3	Alexander Broyles	Maize
4	Simone Folsom	Sumner
5	Amanda Branom	Maize
6	Mariah McDonald	Newton
7	Ellen Garrett	Newton
8	Kian Williams	Hutchinson
9	Jacob Unruh	Hutchinson
10	Seamus Wamsley	Hutchinson





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JV

2018

Champions:

Hutchinson - Jenna Ramsey & Adriana Owens, Coached by Melissa Anne Hathaway Loepp

Finalists:

Newton - Miguel Molina Chavez & Josue Coy Dick, Coached by David Williams

Semifinalists:

Sumner Academy - Jaleon Brown & Neymara Freeman, Coached by Jamelle Brown

Andover Hanna Mannani & Grace McManus, Coached by James Harris





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Novice

2018

Champions:

Sumner Academy - Dakota Scott & Ariana Lindsay, Coached by Jamelle Brown

2nd Place:

Sumner Academy - Michael Andrade & Kaeden Robbins, Coached by Jamelle Brown

3rd Place:

Newton - Jakob Graber & Hannah Teater, Coached by David Williams

4th Place:

Wichita East - Wael Yessin & Bao Nguyen, Coached by Mike Harris

Speaker Awards

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Top Speaker	Konnor Fleming	Hutchinson
2	Ariana Lindsay	Sumner
3	Sean Wentling	Derby
4	Anjali Singh	Wichita East
5	Kaeden Robbins	Sumner
6	Michael Andrade	Sumner
7	Hannah Teater	Newton
8	Aamer Goual-Belhamidi	Wichita East
9	Wael Yessin	Wichita East
10	Ethan Neufeld	Newton

