



VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL THUNDERBOLT DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Dear Fellow Debate Coach:

The Victor J. Andrew High School Debate Team cordially invites you to our campus to participate in our inaugural Thunderbolt Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum tournament on Saturday, December 14. We promise great competition and warm hospitality in a 5-round tournament.

Public Forum

Resolved: The benefits of the United States federal government's use of offensive cyber operations outweigh the harms

Lincoln-Douglas

Resolved: The United States ought to eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels

Divisions Novice: First year of debate (any type)

Junior Varsity: Second year of debate experience (coaches can move students up from novice to a higher level of competition at any time)

Varsity: Two or more years of debate experience (coaches can move students up from novice or JV to a higher level of competition at any time)

NOTE: NO MAVERICK teams in PF

Fees: \$20 per debater in LD; \$25 per team in PF

Judging: One full judge is required for every two debaters (or part of) in a division. For example, if you have 5 teams in PF and 4 teams in LD, you will need 5 Judges: 3 PF judges and 2 LD judges. We will have some judges available for hire for the cost of \$180.00. Email me early to reserve your judges.

You can also let me know if you have any judges available for hire. All judges are expected to be available for all five rounds. Your school will be charged \$180.00 for every qualified judge you are short, (including half-judges).

Trophies: Awards will be given to the top 5 teams in each division and speaker awards will be given to the top 10 speakers in each novice division and top 5 speakers for JV and Varsity

Registration: Registration should be completed on Tabroom.com
Preliminary numbers would be appreciated by Friday, December 6.

Registration should be completed by Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00 PM
You can make changes or drops after that date, but no additions.

**SEND AN EMAIL MESSAGE WITH INFORMATION
ABOUT CHANGES/DROPS ON SATURDAY MORNING
WHEN ON THE BUS TO: jwool@d230.org**

Location Victor J. Andrew High School
9001 West 171 Street
Tinley Park, IL 60487

Please drop off the students in the back of the school and enter the school at the doors marked Main Entrance (By the fountain). When you enter the building, students will guide you to our student cafeteria. Buses can park in the back parking lot

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: Victor J. Andrew High School

Address all emails to Jim Wool: jwool@d230.org

Judges: Please note any first time judges when you register so we can try to leave them off the first round (no promises, but we will try). New judges should be signed up to judge in the JUNIOR VARSITY division only. You may bring varsity debaters to judge in the novice round--please note this in your registration. **MAKE SURE ALL JUDGES AND STUDENTS HAVE THEIR OWN TABROOM ACCOUNTS** and that **ALL JUDGES** bring some type of electronic device to complete their ballots.

Please share JUDGE EXPECTATION sheet with all judges prior to the tournament.

Disclosing: Judges are expected to completely and thoroughly fill out each ballot. **All comments** should be written in the REASON FOR DECISION section of the ballot. If judges want to provide a BRIEF critique at the end of the round, decisions and speaker points should be completed first. Please understand that oral critiques **DO NOT** replace a carefully written ballot that clearly articulates a reason for decision based on the arguments in the round. These ballots are invaluable to coaches and students. If a judge feels a lengthier critique is necessary, please make sure to turn in your ballot first.

Food: Snacks will be available for purchase. For lunch, please complete pizza orders on Tabroom.
Judges and Students: Please DO NOT leave the building for food.
In the past, judges who left the building have delayed the tournament.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

7:30-8:00	Registration
8:00	Tournament Announcements
8:30	Round I *Students who receive a "BYE" should remain in the cafeteria
9:45	Round II
11:00	Round III
12:00	Lunch (Student concessions & Complimentary Judges Lounge)
12:45	Round IV
2:15	Awards Ceremony in the PAC *We will move up times if possible

See you in December!

DEBATE TOURNAMENT

JUDGING EXPECTATIONS

IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE PROGRAM'S HEAD COACH TO MAKE SURE EACH JUDGE HAS READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS.

THIS IS AN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY AND THE STUDENTS ARE OUR MAIN PRIORITY. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. JUDGES AT ALL TIMES ARE EXPECTED TO ACT IN A DIGNIFIED AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER.

1. **If you are a new judge, please let the tab room know asap.**
2. **All judges are expected to be available for the duration of the tournament** (8:00 AM through Round V). Tournaments aren't perfect, so delays may happen, but we've tried to anticipate potential problems. Once Round 5 is complete, it is the coach's discretion to dismiss judges.
3. **Please wait in the student cafeteria or judges lounge if you are not scheduled to judge** to see if you are needed to fill-in for a round. This is really important to keep the tournament on schedule. Changes will be sent to you through Tabroom. You should not watch rounds if you are not judging without permission from TAB.
4. **Judges should be the first ones to enter a room and the last ones to leave the room.** Judges and debaters are not to touch anything other than student desks (i.e., DO NOT SIT AT THE TEACHER'S DESK OR UNPLUG ANYTHING). Please do not bring anything but water into a classroom. Any unusual classroom conditions should be reported to the tab room immediately.
5. **Rounds should start ASAP.** If a debater is not present within 10 minutes of the release of pairings, please have someone communicate that with the tab table. DO NOT JUST SIT IN THE ROOM. Students who do not report to their room within 10 minutes will receive a forfeit for that round.
6. **Make sure to hit START ROUND when you begin.**
7. **Judges should verbally verify the debater information that is on the ballot.** In Public Forum, especially, please confirm School Names, Sides of the Debate, and Speaking Order (e.g. the CON may at times speak first instead of the PRO, unlike Lincoln-Douglas procedure). Debaters should legibly write their team information on the boards in the classrooms or on the ballot itself. Make sure to include School Name and codes on the ballot. Please be mindful of who is in the room. Make sure the correct teams are there and did not accidentally walk into the wrong room.
8. **Be attentive during all parts of the debate.** Judges are expected to flow (take careful notes) during speeches and listen attentively during Cross-Ex/Crossfire. Judges can use timers and laptops to adjudicate the round, but texting during the debate or looking at your phone conveys serious disregard to the debaters in the round (and the coaches/schools who hired you).
9. **DO NOT DISCLOSE YOUR DECISION.**

10. **Please provide constructive and specific feedback on ballots.** This provides great insight for coaches after each tournament. Vague and/or sparse comments are not useful educational tools. **ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE WRITTEN UNDER THE REASON FOR DECISION SECTION.** Reasons for Decision (RFD) should in particular specify the arguments that the judge found most convincing (or not) and how/why the arguments were weighed. RFD's such as "The NEG presented their side better" or "The AFF did a better job debating" would be considered vague.
11. **Oral critiques are acceptable, as long as they are brief and constructive.** If a judge feels a lengthier critique is needed, they should write their decision and speaker points on the ballot first, then speak with the debaters in the student cafeteria. Serious concerns from the round should be addressed on the ballot and communicated to the school's coach immediately
12. **Please be mindful of awarding fair speaker points.** Speaker points are used to break ties in each division.
13. **Remember this is an educational experience.** Whether this is their first debate tournament or their thirtieth, it is important to be honest, but always be supportive and professional in any criticism. No one is suggesting you avoid critical feedback, but please be professional and effective representatives of your school's program.
14. **Low Point Wins are acceptable,** but **MUST** be noted on the ballot with LPW or "Low Point Win" written on the ballot. Please make sure school/team codes are consistent with the side debated. Half points are acceptable. Tenth-points are not allowed.
15. **No scouting.** Observers are only allowed in rounds where members of their own school are competing or judging. *Observers are allowed to flow for educational purposes.* Schools who bring observers (non-participants) are allowed to observe any debate.

ILLINOIS DEBATE SPEAKER POINTS follow the guidelines set forth from NSDA. Please use this range to judge debaters within experience levels (Novice/JV/Varsity).

Range	Strength	Percent of debaters
29-30	Exceptionally Strong	5-10%
27-28	Above Average	25%
24-26	Average	30-40%
22-23	Below Average	25%
20-21	Exceptionally Weak	5-10%
Under 20	Rude/Demeaning	
	*Please make sure to clearly explain the reason for this low score on the ballot	

Thank you for taking the time to support our students and for adhering to our rules. We realize how important our judges are to the success of this tournament, and we are here to support you and our students. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the tab room immediately.