



Dear Forensics Coaches, Judges, and Participants:

On behalf of the Columbia Debate Society, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2020 Columbia Invitational, our 18th annual competition to be held at Columbia University from Friday, January 24th, 2020, to Sunday, January 26th, 2020. The tournament will consist of competition in Congressional Debate, Varsity and Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Open Public Forum Debate.

Please note that this year both LD divisions and Congress will hold their Saturday rounds at Stuyvesant High School, located at 345 Chambers St, New York, NY.

We are pleased to announce that we can provide bids to the Tournament of Champions for participants that reach finals in Lincoln-Douglas and quarter-finals in PF.

Joining us as Tab Director is Jim Menick. Additionally, we thank Mr Charles Sloat and Jeremy Norris for assisting us in tab and helping our tournament run smoothly.

This packet should answer any questions you may have about the tournament. If you need any additional information, please email us at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

Best,

Varun Venkatesh
Tournament Director



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

2020 Columbia
Invitational High School
Forensics Tournament

Columbia University, January 24th–26th, 2020
**For problems during the tournament,
please contact:**

Tournament Director: Varun Venkatesh (408) 806-3996

Tab Phone LD: Jim Menick (914) 471-6351

Tab Phone PF: Charles Sloat (914) 649-8246

Tab Phone Congress: Jeremy Norris (917)
941-3970

Columbia University Public Safety: (212) 854-
5555

Event Rules

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The resolution will be the January-February NSDA topic. Lincoln-Douglas will follow the 6-3-7- 3-4-6-3 format, with 4 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, adjusted points, total points, double-adjusted points, judge variance, opponent wins, and flip of a coin, in that order. The break will depend on the number of teams registered (last year the break was double-octos). The TOC bid is at VLD finals. In Novice LD, a novice is defined as a freshman or sophomore in their absolute first year of any debate activity.

Public Forum Debate

There will be a single, open division of PF. We will follow the new pilot NSDA rules for the event (see here for the details:

<http://www.jimmenick.com/images/PF2019.pdf>) and use the NSDA topic for January 2019. Ties will be broken using the same criteria as Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The event will probably break to double-octofinals. The TOC bid is at quarterfinals.

Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will be composed of no more than 25 members, although 20 is the target. Sunday's competition will feature a final round in the morning, but if numbers warrant a semi-supersession will be added to the schedule. Super-session question time will feature 2 minutes each for the sponsorship and first negative speeches, and 1 minute for all subsequent speeches, divided into 30-second blocks per questioner. NSDA rules and time limits will apply.

Legislation Submission

Please submit all legislation to columbiadebate@gmail.com by Monday January 6th 2020, at 5pm. Please make the subject line: "Congress Legislation Submission – [School Name, Last Name]". Legislation must include the name of the author and the author's school. Please include your school in the legislation file name (e.g. Columbia Bill 1.docx). Legislation should follow the templates found at <http://www.congressionaldebate.org/resources/legislation-templates>. Legislation must be submitted in a ".docx" or ".doc" form. Legislation that does not meet these requirements may be not be accepted, especially if it is close to the deadline. Submitting multiple pieces of legislation per school is permitted, but acceptance is not guaranteed. Please rank your submissions in priority order. Every effort will be made to post chamber assignments and the docket by Saturday, January 11th, hopefully earlier. Accordingly, additions to a given school's congress registration after January 7th will only be accepted (up to the regular tournament deadline) in so far as they do not create a need for additional number of chambers.

Judging Requirements and Policies

Teams should bring the following number of qualified judges:

PF:	1 judge / 3 teams
LD:	1 judge / 3 entries
Congress:	1 judge / 5 entries

Obligations

Judges in congress are obligated for **all rounds**. Judges in LD and PF are obligated to judge **one round past the last full round elimination round in which their students are active**, i.e., if there is a run-off, all judges are obligated for the elimination round following the run-off. A

number of judges will be available for hire. Requesting a hired judge does not guarantee that the request will be accepted. **Acceptances will be sent by email via tabroom.com. No school can hire out its entire obligation.**

To be very clear, **schools whose judges fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined at the tournament's discretion.** These fines are non-negotiable. All divisions will run with e-ballots on tabroom.

Competitors from any school with outstanding fines will not advance to elimination rounds, nor may the school pick up awards or ballots until they have settled their balance.

Paradigms

We expect all debate judges to publish paradigms on tabroom.com.

Tab & Ballots

We will publicly post the results of every round in LD and PF after each round is tabbed, to serve as a confirmation. Though judges in debate events are not required to disclose their decisions, they are highly encouraged to do so and give feedback and critiques. Pairings will be posted online.

Awards

All competitors reaching elimination rounds will receive awards.

Registration

General Information

Registration for schools with Public Forum entries must take place before 4:00 P.M. on Friday. Schools with only Congress entries may register in person on Friday or by calling before 5:00 P.M. on Friday to confirm their registration. Those who call in advance for Congress will pay their registration fees Saturday morning. The number to call for registration is (570) 847 - 8420. We also ask that coaches please check in upon arrival at registration. Students should go directly to one of the General Assembly (GA) rooms. Schools with LD only must text the following information to 914 471 6351 by 5:00 Friday: Your School's Name, Your Name, Either say "No drops or name changes" or "Changes", the, if changes, list name changes.

Waitlist

To accommodate as many teams as possible as efficiently as possible, we will open registration for the tournament on tabroom.com on a waitlist-only basis. As soon as our rooms are confirmed with the university, we will clear as much of the waitlist as we can. **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE PLANE TICKETS OR MAKE NON-CANCELLABLE RESERVATIONS OF ANY SORT FOR STUDENTS UNTIL THEY ARE CLEARED:** great distance from the tournament is not a guarantee of admittance. Schools with a history of judge absences and unpaid fees will be given precedence for remaining on the waitlist until next year.

Waitlists will be cleared no sooner than a week after registration opens (and most likely a bit later). All schools registered at that point will be given equal consideration. In other words, there is no benefit to being first to sign up: fast fingers on the computer are a poor warrant for acceptance into a tournament. A fair distribution of slots to all seems to make the best sense.

Eligibility

Only teams officially representing degree-issuing high schools are eligible to register. We will not accept independent entries, camp entries, or mix-match entries from across school districts. Additionally, due to liability reasons, no teams will be accepted into the tournament without a responsible adult chaperone on the property for the duration of the tournament. An adult, for these purposes, is defined as a college graduate twenty-one years of age or older, presumably an employee of the team's school or a parent. The contact information for this adult must be given to the Tab Room at registration.

Fees and Fines

Registration Fees

LD	\$80/entry
PF	\$100/entry
Congress	\$50/entry

Hired Judge Fees

LD Hired Judge	\$250 (covering up to 3 entries)
PF Hired Judge	\$250 (covering up to 3 entries)
Congress Hired Judge	\$50/uncovered entry

Fines and Deadlines*

Arriving with fewer judges than claimed:	\$500/judge
Unreported team drops day of tournament	\$100
Judge misses a preliminary round	\$50/round
Judge misses an elimination round	\$100/round
Cost to replace building access wristband	\$10/wristband

Merchandise & Food**

Shirts	\$20/per
Sweaters	\$25/per
Water	\$1/bottle
Stickers	\$1/per
Snacks	\$2/bag
Pizza (lunch)***	\$2.50/slice

*No team can hire out their entire judge obligation

*We will only accept cash for merchandise

**Judges will be provided free lunch

All payment is due at registration.

Please make all checks payable to Columbia University.

We accept cash!

Notes on Fees and Fines:

Please do not mail any checks for payment before the date of the tournament.

Schools with unpaid fines will not advance to elims, and will be noted as

non-payers for future tournaments.

We have updated our address, so please do not use any address that you have on file from previous tournaments. If you would like our address to mail a check, email columbiadebate@gmail.com and ask for the address.

Please do not submit payments late. If you have trouble submitting your payment on time, please email the tournament director, Varun Venkatesh at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

Fines are non-negotiable. Being late to a morning round due to subway malfunctions or transportation issues is not a valid excuse for missing a round.

Security & Emergencies

Columbia and Barnard Campus Security has been increased for the weekend to accommodate the tournament on Broadway and throughout the Columbia Campus. We want this tournament to be a safe environment for everyone and will take all concerns seriously. **Call Public Safety at (212) 854-5555 if you experience any non-tournament security concerns, as well as the Tab's phone number (914) 871-6351 for tournament related concerns.**

Schedule

Schedule

PF (all on campus)

Friday, January 24th, 2020

3:00-4:00 In-person registration.

5:00 Round 1

8:00 Round 2

Saturday, January 25th, 2020

8:00 Arrive at GA

8:30 Round 3

11:30 Round 4

2:15 Round 5

5:00 Round 6

Sunday, January 26th, 2020

8:30 Outrounds

LD (Novice and PF)

Friday, January 24th, 2020

3:00-5:00 Registration. (Text for LD-only schools)

Saturday, January 25th, 2020 Stuyvesant HS

8:00 Round 1

10:30 Round 2

1:00 Round 3

4:00 Round 4

7:00 Round 5

Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at college campus

8:30 Outrounds

Congress Schedule

Friday, January 24th, 2020

1:00-5:00: Congress Reg. by phone

Saturday, January 25th, 2020 at Stuyvesant HS

9:00 Congress Session 1

1:00 Congress Session 2

4:30 Congress Session 3

Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at college campus

10:00 Congress Super Session (or possibly semis)

3:30 Awards & Ballot Distribution

Merchandise

You can purchase Columbia Debate paraphernalia at the booth located in the Diana Event Oval. T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Stickers will be sold at great prices!

NYC Logistics

Parking

Overnight parking is oftentimes available through your hotel.

Meter Parking is available around the campus on Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue.

Parking Garages near Columbia

Parking St Garage Corporation

512 West 112th Street

New York, NY

(212) 865-1754

Manhattan Parking 10

2840 Broadway

New York, NY 10025

(212) 222-7813

Getting Around New York City

Travel on MTA New York City Transit requires a MetroCard. MetroCards can be purchased at MetroCard Vending Machines (MVMs) which can be found at most station entrances. Base fare for the NYC Transit System (Subway, Surface Transit excluding Express Buses) is \$2.50. Buses do not accept bills as payment for fare. The MTA also offers a One-Day Unlimited Ride [Fun Pass](#) at \$8.25/person.

Subway

The “1 Train” goes to 116th Street Columbia (make sure that you do not take the 2 or 3 trains to 116th Street—this is not the same station!). The “1 Train” (“Broadway – 7th Avenue Local”) services a number of popular NYC destinations including Lincoln Center (66 Street — Lincoln Center), Columbus Circle/Central Park South (59 Street — Columbus Circle), Times Square (42 Street — Times Square), The West Village (Christopher St/Sheridan Sq), and SoHo (Houston St). You can also connect to a number of other lines from the Train. Refer to the [Subway Map](#) for more information.

Buses

The M4, M5, M11, M60, and M104 service Columbia University. Refer to the [Manhattan Bus Map](#) for more information.

Taxis

Yellow Taxis supervised by the Taxi and Limousine Commission (which look like [this](#)) are easily flaggable from most city streets at any time of day or night.

Uber

Uber is available everywhere in NYC and requires a smartphone to call. It is usually a cheaper alternative to a taxi.

Walking

New York can be a very walkable city and we encourage you to explore! Before setting out on foot, be sure to think about the actual distance to your destination (New York City may be larger than you think, 42nd Street is pretty far from 116th Street by foot). Also, be sure to use your brain and practice basic street smarts.

Please note

Transportation services and conditions are always subject to change. We advise you be conscious of service changes and circumstances. The 1 Train of the subway system does not operate during some weekends. Note that personal transport is independent of the Tournament and Columbia University and neither is liable for transportation occurrences or damages.