



LEADING THE WAY

THE SENATOR DEBATES INVITATIONAL - 2020

Dear High School Lincoln-Douglas Coaches and Debaters,

Davis & Elkins College cordially invites you to the inaugural Senator Debates Invitational hosted Saturday, January 25, 2020, featuring a **Lincoln-Douglas debate only tournament** with four preliminary rounds, semifinals, and finals. Entries are **free**, and we will provide a small lunch **free** of charge. We do ask that you cover your judging commitment, which is one judge for every two debaters. (For new programs, let us know, and we will help as much as possible with community judges.)

Depending upon entry size and school division, we hope to offer both novice and varsity divisions of LD. To do so, we would need at least five schools and no fewer than twelve debaters in each division. Absent that, but if total tournament entries reach a minimum of twelve entrees for combined divisions, we will offer semifinals in varsity debate and a novice breakout final. (***Novice entries are limited to four per squad.***)

The proposition for both novice and varsity divisions will be the NSDA January/February proposition:

Resolved: States ought to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Enter in Tabroom and be sure to indicate novice and varsity debaters. The entry deadline is January 19, 2020, at midnight. Drops must be entered by January 23 at 5:00 p.m. Further, if you would please let us know as soon as possible if your school plans to attend, that will make trophy orders and food numbers easier. To confirm your interest and approximate numbers, including coaches, judges, and any anticipated guests (parents, relatives, etc.) please email Jeremy Christensen at christensenj@dewv.edu.

The campus, founded by two former United States Senators and located in Elkins, West Virginia, sits in the heart of the Monongahela National Forest and is only three hours from Pittsburgh and three-and-a-half hours from Washington, D.C. (Directions to campus and a link to a campus map appear on the last page of the invitation.)

We look forward to hosting you.

Regards,

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Senator Debates Schedule

January 25, 2020

7:45-8:15	Registration	– Lobby Eshelman Science Center 400. (See hyperlink to campus map at bottom of invite for more details on location.)
8:15-8:25	Opening Assembly	(Science Center 400)
8:30-9:20	Round I	(Ballots returned to ballot table by 9:25)
9:30-10:20	Round II	(Ballots returned by 10:35)
11:00-11:50	Round III	[Powered high-low in brackets] (Ballots by 12:05)
12:00-12:45	Lunch	
1:00-1:50	Round IV	[Powered high-low in brackets] (Ballots by 1:05)
2:30 -3:20	Elim #1	Semifinals Varsity/Novice <i>or</i> Semifinals Varsity and Novice breakout finals
3:45-4:30	Elim #2	Finals Varsity/Novice or Finals of Varsity
5:00	Awards	(Science Center 400)

Entry Procedures and Requirements

Entry Procedure and Fees – Please enter via Tabroom.com by January 19, 2020 at midnight. Drops must be completed by January 23 at 5:00 p.m. Drops after January 23 may accrue a \$15.00 penalty. All other covered entries are free.

Judging requirements – each squad should bring one judge to cover two debaters. Should teams be unable to cover judging, they may be assessed a \$25.00 per uncovered debater judging fee. We want you to be able to enter without cost, so if you can't cover, give us early notice, and we will try to sort something out.

Tournament Details and Procedures

Tabulation – We will use TRPC to tabulate the tournament and the tournament director will also run tabulation. What follows is the basic outline, but the tournament director reserves the right to change these guidelines should entry numbers make it impossible to maintain these standards.

Process: *Given standard variance in entries and diversity*, the tournament will proceed as follows. Rounds one and two will be preset. Rounds three and four will be power-matched, high-low in brackets. Pairings will be decided as follows: 1) participants from the same schools cannot debate each other. (If you have a middle school team designation as well, please indicate that via email. Students will be entered as your high school designation, but for points purposes – see NSDA guidelines – those debates will be indicated in your take-home packets as follows in the posting procedure outlined below.); 2) power-matching will occur based upon the first default. Thus, if there are four persons from the same school with a 2-0 record, members from other schools will be pulled up to debate them, even if they have a lower record; 3) breaks will be based first upon preliminary records and then speaker points; 4) speaker points will be determined by dropping the high-low in speaker rating rather than gross speaker points and then by ranking in quantity; strength of opponents will be the last tie-break used and then tournament director's discretion.

Late Rounds- Unless there is a system-wide failure, debaters should be at their rounds on time, as should judges. There will be a five-minute grace-period for each debater. At five minutes and one second judges will be instructed to forfeit the late debater, awarding the win to the debater present. Should both debaters be absent, it will result in a double-loss.

Postings – Postings will NOT include codes. (Most people figure out the codes after the first round, so it does very little to protecting identity and voting on reputation in debate.) Instead, debaters will be indicated by school and last name; i.e. John Smith from West Virginia High School would be indicated as WVHS Smith.

Should there be more than one entry from the same school with the same last name, they will be designated numerically; i.e. John Smith from West Virginia High School and Josh Smith from West Virginia High School will be listed as WVHS Smith1 and WVHS Smith2.

For middle school students, who are part of a high school program as well, the posting will be by the high school name, but will include a lower-case m after the name; i.e. WVHS Smith1m.

Judging – All preliminary rounds will feature *only one judge*. Those judges will come from the pool of judges representing schools entered, debate team members of Davis & Elkins College, and members of the Elkins community. We will try to put judges with debate experience in each round; however, that experience will be varied, and we may put in qualified, professional community members, such as college professors, to fill-in otherwise. Debaters should plan their rate of delivery accordingly and expect to adapt to different expectations.

Judges are instructed to judge only the round they see. Judges may not consult outside work (i.e. look up information online), other than calling for evidence read during the round. Doubtless judges will see the round in unique ways, so it is up to the debater to appeal to those, however. Should judges consult outside material or otherwise intervene in the round in a manner to control the outcome (such as coaching during speeches), coaches should see the tournament director immediately.

Insofar as possible, we will try to keep judges from schools out for a few rounds so that they can help prepare their debaters.

Persons in the judging pool should refrain from watching debates, as they may end up judging that debater later at the tournament.

We, however, do encourage parents and guests to watch their friends and family members and encourage everyone not judging or participating in elimination debates to watch.

Elimination Rounds

Elimination round breaks will be based first upon preliminary win-loss records and then speaker points. Speaker points will be determined by dropping the high-low in speaker rating then by breaking ties in ranking. Should there still be a tie, then strength of opposition will determine the student advancing.

Elimination rounds will have three judges, and rounds MAY NOT begin before all three judges are present. Coaches, be sure to remind your debaters. ***Should a round begin before all three judges are present. The round will re-start from the beginning***, but the tournament will be delayed.

Elimination Round Pairings and Advancing

The tournament will break brackets in elimination rounds. If two persons from the same school should still meet, then it is coach's choice for who will advance; otherwise, the tournament will advance the top seed.

Novice Breakout

Should there be only a novice breakout round rather than a full novice semifinal, the top two ***non-advancing novices*** (those that were not eligible to advance in varsity on the strength of their preliminary record and/or speaker points) will debate in the novice breakout round.

If two debaters from the same school reach that round, the round will be considered a close-out, and the teams' coach can decide after the tournament who earned first place.

Protests and Concerns – Official protests for judging issues should be brought to the tournament director's attention. Depending upon the grievance, that judge will 1) be asked to change his/her process; 2) be removed from the tournament; and/or 3) the decision will be vacate and assigned a double-win or a double-loss at the tournament director's discretion.

Further, the tournament director reserves the right to immediately dismiss any grievance that is found without merit or concerns a marginal case of misconduct.

The college complies with federal Title IX requirements, so any case of sexual misconduct will be reported to appropriate authorities as required by federal law and Davis & Elkins College policies.

Awards

Individual Awards

All elimination round participants will receive substantial awards, including novice breakout participants. Also, competitors in both varsity and novice will be eligible for speaker awards. So long as there are no fewer than ten entries in each division, students in the top five speaking positions in each division will earn awards. If there are between five and ten entries, the top three students in each division will earn speaking awards. If there are fewer than five, then only the top entry will be recognized with an award in each division.

Sweepstakes Awards

School debate sweepstakes awards will be given to the top two competing schools. Sweepstakes points for each school are limited to the top three debaters between both the novice and varsity division. (For instance, if novice debaters closed-out the novice breakout and two varsity reached semifinals in open, with one advancing, both novices and one varsity advancing to finals would be counted.)

Should programs have both a high school and middle school component, unless they are designated to be counted separately, the high school and middle school will be considered as one entity for sweepstakes purposes. (If there are separate coaches – if for instance coaches from the high school are clean to judge the middle school debaters – then the programs should be counted separately.)

Sweepstakes awards are figured as follows:

- 1 point – loss
- 3 points – preliminary round win
- 3 points – advancing to an elimination round
- 5 points – winning an elimination round

Accommodations and Hospitality

Accommodations – Should your students, judges or coaches require accessibility accommodations, as students will have to ascend and descend stairs to get to rounds, please let us know as soon as possible in advance so that we can adjust the room assignments in tab accordingly. Should guests have accessibility needs, also let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate those

Hospitality – We try to be hospitable and, as such, we will have snacks, coffee, and beverages in the coaches' and judge's lounge, the location of which will be made available during registration.

Vending on campus is limited, so students may want to bring water or snacks with them.

Lunch – at this point our plan is to provide pizza and sodas. That may change into something better, but it won't be anything worse. To accommodate you as well as possible, please let us know by January 20 what dietary restrictions coaches, judges, debaters, and any accompanying parents have. Please do so via email at christensenj@dewv.edu

Internet – You may access the internet before or after rounds begin through DEWireless. ***No one may use the internet during the rounds.***

Courtesy – We want to hold at least one tournament here annually, and you could help us by following these guidelines:

- 1) *Leave the rooms as you found them.* Clean up trash and erase the board after each round.
- 2) *Avoid littering.* We have lots of trash cans, please use them.
- 3) *Be respectful of judges.* If there are any problems, just come to the tournament director.
- 4) *Follow any requirements made during announcements.*

Directions

From Randolph Avenue turn onto Sycamore street (the road turns left next to the large iron statue of Senator Davis on horseback) and follow Sycamore to the gatehouse (number 5 on the map), turn left and follow the road up the hill. Just past Charles Albert Hall you will see a step road to your right that takes you down to the Faculty and Commuter Lot. Take that turn, and park there, in the area next to the Boiler House Theater Once parked, you will see the library facility (see photo below) in front of you, and to your right (if you are facing the library) you will see a four-story building with dark windows. That is the Eshelman Science Center (see photo below). Registration is on the fourth floor. You can take the elevator, but it is a little slow. You may wish to take the stairs.

Campus Map Link: https://www.dewv.edu/pdf/D&E_MapBrochure_01_12.pdf



D&E Library



Eshelman Science Center