



March 1, 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

We would like to cordially invite you to the 2020 Western Washington University Pacific Northwest Debates on April 18-19. We look forward to you joining us in Bellingham for a great weekend of debate competition, community building, and a series of new innovative awards!

The tournament is the sixth and final event in an experimental debate series in the Pacific Northwest. We are confident this event can provide an important service to students who are interested in challenging evidence-based debate that is realistic and accessible and grounded in a positive community experience. We are hosting the event in April to encourage other debate programs in the greater region to check out what we have to offer!

WWU is committed to bring you and your students to the table for what should be a great event. We are happy to talk about discounting fees, providing topic resources, or even access to our debate research to help your students get prepared. Don't hesitate to reach out to us so we can do what we can to bring your group to Bellingham this spring!

Sincerely,

Travis Cram, PhD
Director of Forensics

Korry Harvey,
Assistant Director of Forensics

Margaret Rockey
Assistant Debate Coach

Kinny Torre,
Assistant Debate Coach

2020 WWU “Pacific Northwest Debates” Tournament

Event Description:

“Pacific Northwest Debate” is an experimental format that seeks to produce a student-centered debate experience that is rooted in evidence and rigor and yet accessible and realistic for students with increasing demands on their time, resources, and attention. There are four major goals the format hopes to achieve. First, it seeks to immerse students in scholarly literature related to pressing social and political controversies. Second, it seeks to develop student skill in building, testing, and critiquing arguments synthesized from that literature and honing their ability to do so in front of a diversity of educated audiences. Third, it seeks to develop skills related to critical and strategic thinking. Finally, the format emphasizes the educational and social benefits of forensics through community-building and a deemphasis on some traditional facets of tournament debating.

The event utilizes a collectively sourced article packet of scholarship that has been cultivated by participating students, traditional policy debate speech sequences with shorter times, and a communicatively centered theory of argumentation to guide debates. A full description of the event and its theoretical norms are located [here](#). It is worth noting that the norms described therein are not intended as a set of exhaustive rules that speak to what students may or may not do, but rather a set of aspirational norms that reflect the goals of the activity.

2020 Winter/Spring Resolution:

The topic for the 2020 Winter/Spring term is:

Resolved: The United States federal government should expand Fourth Amendment protections by substantially restricting warrantless searches of digital information by law enforcement.

As a civics refresher, here is the text of the fourth amendment:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

A brief prospectus on the broader issues surrounding the topic can be found [here](#).

Article Packet Details & Guidelines:

Full-text articles in the packet are available via a shared dropbox. Please email traviscram@gmail.com to inquire about access.

Participants can utilize any portion of any article listed in the established article packet. New additions for the final wave of article contributions are due by 11:59 PST on April 4. Additions

should be published by directly adding articles to the shared Dropbox. Schools who have already participated in Pacific Northwest Debates on the current topic can contribute a maximum of 5 articles. Schools participating in the event for the first time are encouraged to submit 1 article.

Article contributions should conform to the following guidelines:

1. Peer-reviewed scholarship published within the last 10 years.
2. Journal articles or book chapters only (a book chapter counts the same as a journal article).
3. Must have 4A or the key topic phrases/ideas in the title or abstract.
4. For articles that don't fit all those parameters but may still serve an important purpose, schools must provide a paragraph explaining what they think their contribution does to develop themes in the packet and debates, and how it could/should be used.

Submissions should use the following guidelines for ease of use and consistency:

1. Submissions must include a full-text PDF document of their contribution.
2. Submissions must include a word document with a full APA citation for the article, author qualifications, and sentence or two about what type of argument they construct, the basic thesis of the argument and the affirmative/negative potential of the article.

Tournament Information and Awards:

The tournament will offer 6 preliminary rounds and one final round. If sufficient entries allow, the tournament may utilize multiple divisions based on student experience. We are also seeking to arrange an hour-long forum on the topic with relevant experts to promote greater learning about topic issues.

The tournament will determine round outcomes via traditional win/loss record, but speaker points will not be utilized. Instead, judges will be asked to rate students on 10-point interval scales based upon their performance in the four learning outcome areas: a) use of evidence, b) analysis, c) communication, and d) community-building. Each outcome should be assessed based upon the individual student's performance in *that* round. Ties are allowed and the winning team does not need to "outscore" their opponents. This data will not be used in determining subsequent seeding in the bracket.

In addition to recognizing final round participants, the tournament will recognize participants with the following awards:

1. The top two students in each of the following categories:
 - A. "Excellence in Evidence"
 - B. "Excellence in Analysis"
 - C. "Excellence in Communication"
 - D. "Excellence in Community-building"

2. The top two novice debaters (defined as a student with less than one year of competitive debate experience).
3. The top two newcomers (defined as students participating in their first organized debate tournament).
4. Most preferred critic based upon student feedback submitted after each round.

Registration Requirements, Deadlines, and Details:

Registration is open to any enrolled undergraduate student who is participating as a representative for the university or college's debate or forensics program. All students participating at the tournament should be briefed on [the organizational and judging norms](#) by their coaches.

Registration for the tournament will take place on Tabroom.com:
https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index.mhtml?tourn_id=15576

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, April 14 at 5 pm PST. All fees will be assessed at that time. If there are changes to your roster that are required after the deadline, please contact Traviscram@gmail.com.

Judging Policy:

Finding adequate judging in Bellingham is very difficult. The tournament does intend to hire as many high-quality judges as is feasible, but directors should operate under the assumption that they will cover their entries. If you are facing a unique hardship in complying with this policy, please contact us directly so we can hopefully find an accommodation. Your judges must have read the [Northwest Forensics Conference guidelines on equity and ethics](#) and also read and agree to uphold the [judging guidelines](#) of the event.

Each debate judge covers 2 teams.

Fees and Payment Information:

We will utilize the following fee schedule. If fees represent a difficult budgetary hurdle or this is your first tournament participating in the event, we may be able to waive or reduce your fees. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at traviscram@gmail.com.

Per school fee: \$55.

Debate teams: \$65 per team.

Payment can be made via check or cash.

Parking: WWU is very serious about parking enforcement and is quick to ticket a vehicle, so be sure you know where you can park. The tournament will be held on the south side of campus in

the Communications Facility (CF) and possibly Academic West (AW). There are a variety of [pay-lots across campus](#) but your best bet is **Lot 12A**. Parking here is free from 4:30pm onward on Friday, and free on Saturday and Sundays. If 12A is full (unlikely), there is parking in the large lot south of 12A. This is lot C/CR (born on the bayou) and has the same parking policies as 12A.

Wireless Access: WWU has fast, reliable guest internet access. It does not require a password. Connect your computer to “WWUwireless-Guest” and agree to the terms in the dialog box. More information on trouble-shooting a connection or how to contact our tech support office is [here](#).

Campus common sense: Please communicate two important things to your participants: *First*, don't touch technology or move anything in the classrooms other than seats. That includes unplugging things. *Second*, students, coaches, and judges need to constantly police each other in keeping campus clean! Make sure trash goes in trash cans, and recyclables and compostables go to their correct bins. Classroom seats should be placed back as they were found and all trash removed after each competition. We regard our participants as some of the finest students on campus, and that should also show up in how little work we create for custodial crews. Additionally, WWU Debate will be on the hook for thousands of dollars in custodial cleaning if we cannot abide by pretty basic common sense.

Food options on campus: Western's campus is not within walking distance of food, although there are some restaurants on campus. Locations and hours can be found [here](#). Several restaurants are about a 5-10 minute drive. We are also hoping to offer breakfast and coffee in the mornings, but cannot currently guarantee those will be offered (catering restrictions have become more...restrictive).

Lodging options: There will not be a central tournament hotel. There are a number of hotels within a 5-15 minute drive of campus. If this is your first time to Bellingham for the competition and you would like recommendations (or warnings of places to stay away from), contact us directly.

Campus Maps and Directions to Campus: We'd guess most of you will simply consult your GPS.

Schedule:

Saturday April 18		Sunday April 19	
Event	Time	Event	Time
Coffee & light breakfast	7:00	Coffee & light breakfast	8:30
Postings R1&2	7:30	Postings R6	9:00
Round 1	8:00-9:30	Round 6	9:20-10:45
Round 2	9:30-11:00	Lunch Break	11:00-12:00
Lunch Break	11:00-12:00	Awards, Finals Posting and Round	12:00-2:00
Postings R3	12:00		
Round 3	12:20-1:45		
Postings R4	2:00		
Round 4	2:20-3:45		
Forum & Snack hour	4:00-5:00		
Postings R5	5:00		
Round 5	5:20-6:45		