



**NEWMAN**  
ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL  
SINCE 1903

Dear Colleague,

The Isidore Newman School Speech & Debate Team cordially invite you to join us for the first ever Lincoln Douglas Round Robin to be held on the virtual platform of Zoom April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. We recognize that this is an unprecedented time in our country and also produces a lot of uncertainty around debate travel. As such, we want to extend an opportunity for members of our community to come together and participate in the activity that we care about. Registration is open and will remain open until April 11<sup>th</sup>. At that time all fees will be assessed.

**Tournament Format:**

- We will invite 12 competitors to be divided into two pods and competition will take place over two days. Debaters in each pod will debate each other. After each person has debated each other, the top two competitors from each pod will debate in a semifinal round. At the end of the semifinal round, the winners of each round will debate in the final round.

**Entries and Judge Requirements:**

Fees are really cheap. We intend to provide a service to the community. As such, we request \$25 per entry. This will help to ensure that we can cover the basic costs to run the tournament (hiring some judges, ordering trophies, etc.)

Each school is expected to provide one judge for each entry they have in the tournament. Given the unique circumstances surrounding our own campus closure, our ability to hire judges will be limited. Uncovered judges will be \$100 per entry.

- *A Note on fees: We recognize that it is difficult to make payments right now, as campuses are closed. An email with promise of payment will be sufficient to complete the payment. We are also looking at ways to accept electronic payment.*

Please make checks payable to:

Isidore Newman School  
1903 Jefferson Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70115

Attention: Christopher Vincent

**Event Rules:**

We will use the NSDA January/February resolution.

- *Resolved: States ought to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.*
- 5 minutes of preparation allowed.

### **Platform:**

The tournament will use **Zoom** as the main platform for competition. All coaches will need to submit their own, their judges, and their participants email address for the Zoom Platform to [christophervincent@newmanschool.org](mailto:christophervincent@newmanschool.org).

All participants in the tournament will receive a link to a Zoom Meeting Room that is password protected. Upon entry everyone will be placed in the waiting room and will have to be accepted. (This is to prevent Zoom hackers, etc.)

Students and judges will be assigned to breakout rooms (virtual competition rooms) in order to participate in their debates. All judges and students will be assigned to individual rooms. Upon the completion of the debate, students and coaches will return back to the main room.

***In order to participate, our school has requested that we obtain parental consent in order to participate on the Zoom platform. A simple letter with verification information is sufficient to meet this request. You will be able to upload that to your tabroom registration.***

### **Online Decorum/Rules:**

- Dress and Video Policies:
  - Students and judges are expected to follow appropriate online behavior and decorum. They should treat the online format as if they are in a classroom. We will request that students and judges be at a workstation of some sort where personal items (bedrooms, etc) are hidden from view. Students or judges violating decorum may be removed from the tournament.
- During the debate:
  - All participants should keep their video on at all times. Additionally, on Zoom, please use your actual name. This is to ensure the correct people are placed in the correct debates. Although this is online and most will be at home, treat the event as if you were at Isidore Newman School.
- Recording Debates:
  - Due to the nature of online debates, the tournament cannot control audio and/or video recording of the debate. However, what we have done proactively is disabled the ability of individuals to record the debate from the Zoom Platform. Please ensure consent among parties in order to record debates.
- Coaching/Prep
  - We will use NSDA internet rules for the tournament.
  - Coaches should not be communicating with their competitors during round. In addition, competitors should not be communicating with outside individuals during the round. Anyone found to be violation of this policy, is subject to being removed. Please help us provide a quality experience and maintain the integrity of the activity.

- All concerns are reported to the tabroom staff and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the tournament staff.

### **Awards:**

Awards will be given to each participant reaching elimination rounds, as well as the top 3 overall speakers. In addition, each participant will receive a small participant award as well. These will be mailed at the end of the tournament, so please ensure that the information on file is correct.

### **Tech Recommendations:**

We recognize that there may be wide range of connectivity issues that could happen. If these happen, we anticipate everyone to be flexible. If there is significant cut off over 10minutes, please contact tab. However, we do have a few recommendations to make this a great experience:

- Use headphones as it will allow you to hear information/speeches in a clearer manner.
- When possible, use an ethernet cord to ensure stronger connectivity.
- And, we would encourage you to consider using an external microphone when you are debating (to ensure quality debate).

These are just some of the practices encouraged by multiple institutions to produce better quality online debates. We would also encourage you to check out both the SDI's posts on best practices, and check out the resources from the TOC.

### **Additional Considerations:**

- Practice on Zoom if at all possible.
- Please work out logistics with your debaters (how you will handle prep, best practices etc.)
- Pay attention to the times and note that they are in CST.

### **Tournament Schedule: (All times are in CST)**

#### **Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **2:00PM: Tabroom.com Registration Check In (Confirm on-site)**

3:00PM: Tournament Welcome & Check-In on Zoom/Announcements

3:30PM: Round 1

4:45PM: Online Zoom Check In

5:00PM: Round 2

6:15PM: Online Check In

6:30PM: Round 3

**Tuesday April 14:**

3:00PM Online Check-In

3:30PM: Round 4

4:45PM: Online Check In

5:00PM: Round 5

6:15PM: Speaker Awards

7:00PM (Flip at 6:30): Finals

Thank you for entrusting us to run a quality online event. If you have any other questions or concerns please email me at [christophervincent@newmanschool.org](mailto:christophervincent@newmanschool.org) We look forward to hosting you (virtually of course) very soon.

Christopher J. Vincent  
Director of Speech & Debate  
Isidore Newman School