



William Tennent High School

333 Centennial Road, Warminster, PA 18974-5400 (EOE)

September 9, 2020

Dear Coaches:

On behalf of the Centennial School District and the William Tennent High School Speech and Debate Team, we are pleased to invite you to the first ever online William Tennent Invitational on **Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, 2020**. For the first time in its history, the William Tennent Invitational is an official National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC) bid tournament!

Events

The tournament will feature competition in the following events:

Main Speech Events	Main Debate Events
Declamation (9 th & 10 th Grade Only) Dramatic Performance (JV & Varsity) Duo Interpretation (JV & Varsity) Extemporaneous Speaking (JV & Varsity) Informative Speaking Original Oratory (JV & Varsity) Program Oral Interpretation (JV & Varsity)	Congressional Debate (JV & Varsity) Lincoln-Douglas Debate (JV & Varsity) Policy Debate (JV & Varsity) Public Forum Debate (JV & Varsity) World Schools Debate
Supplemental Events	
Big Questions Debate (JV & Varsity) Extemporaneous Debate Impromptu Oral Interpretation of Poetry Oral Interpretation of Prose	

Contestants advancing to bid rounds of this tournament will earn one official bid for the 2021 NIETOC. The NIETOC main events include Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Dramatic Performance contestants would declare either HI or DI, depending on the piece performed. Contestants earn bids at the following levels:

- 0 – 19 contestants: 1st place bid
- 20 – 34 contestants: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bids
- 35 – 50 contestants: final round bids
- 51 – 70 contestants: semifinal round bids
- 71 – 99 contestants: quarterfinal round bids
- 100+ contestants: octafinal round bids

The following events will follow NCFL rules:

- Declamation (9th and 10th grade only)
- Dramatic Performance (JV and Varsity)
- Extemporaneous Speaking (JV and Varsity)
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Original Oratory (JV and Varsity)
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Oral Interpretation of Prose
- Policy Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Public Forum (JV and Varsity)

The following events will follow NSDA rules:

- Congressional Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Extemporaneous Debate
- Impromptu
- Informative Speaking
- Program Oral Interpretation
- World Schools Debate

Contestants in partner events (Big Questions Debate, Duo Interpretation, Policy Debate, and Public Forum Debate) and team events (World Schools Debate) must compete in different physical room locations. Contestants competing in the same room will be disqualified!

Students may double-enter in Main Speech events except Extemporaneous Speaking. There is no double entry in Main Debate events. All students registered in Main events -- Speech or Debate -- may also enter Supplemental Events. Within the Supplemental Events, students may enter one Debate event OR one or two Speech, but not both Supplemental Speech and Supplemental Debate.

Schedule

Registration will open online on **Friday, November 6, 2020 at 3:15 p.m. EST** and close at **4:00 p.m. EST**. It is the responsibility of all coaches to check in with their competitors and judges prior to registration. One coach from each school **MUST** check in with us during registration or all of the school's entries will be dropped.

There will be four preliminary rounds in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate that will break to quarterfinals and three preliminary rounds of Policy Debate that will break to finals. We will have four preliminary rounds of World Schools Debate, Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, and Program Oral Interpretation that will break to finals. There will be three preliminary rounds of Big Questions Debate, Extemporaneous Debate, Impromptu, Poetry, and Prose that will break to finals. We will have three preliminary rounds of Congressional Debate plus a super session. The number of elimination rounds may be modified should numbers warrant.

All competitors must have linked Tabroom accounts. Otherwise they will not be able to receive email and text blasts or access competition rooms.

Debate Topics

We will use the following topics as indicated below:

Event	Topic
Big Questions Debate	NSDA 2020-2021 Topic Resolved: Mathematics was discovered, not invented.
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	NSDA November/December 2020 Topic <i>Topic to be released on October 1, 2020</i> The novice topic will NOT be used.
Policy Debate	NSDA 2020-2021 Topic Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.
Public Forum Debate	NSDA November/December 2020 Topic <i>Topic to be released on October 1, 2020</i>
World Schools Debate	Round 1 and Round 2 Motions (Prepared) <i>to be released on October 3, 2020</i> All other rounds are impromptu.

Congress Legislation

Schools are encouraged to submit one piece of legislation per student entry. All legislation must be uploaded to Tabroom no later than **5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, October 26, 2020**. The legislation packet will be posted on Tabroom on **Tuesday, October 27, 2020**.

Extemporaneous Speaking Topics

Topic areas for Extemporaneous Speaking will be posted on Tabroom on **October 15, 2020**.

Registration

Tournament registration will occur through tabroom.com. Entry is open to students in grades 9-12. The JV division is reserved for contestants in their first or second year of competition. Divisions will be collapsed if numbers warrant. Independent entries may be considered for entry on a case-by-case basis. Please email moonco@centennialsd.org for more information.

Registration will close and the names of all judges are due on **Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** with fees frozen on **Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** Registration is \$7.50 per student entry in all main speech and debate events and \$5 per student entry in Extemporaneous Debate, Impromptu, Poetry, and Prose. Registration for Big Questions Debate is free.

Information regarding payment options will be posted on Tabroom by **Thursday, October 1, 2020**.

Judging Obligations

It is the responsibility of each school to provide qualified judges based on the number of entries.

Qualified judges are judges who have been properly trained by your school or a local league. The judging ratios are as follows:

- One judge for every two debate entries
- One judge for every five speech/Congress entries
- One judge for every two debate supplemental event (Big Questions and Extemporaneous Debate) entries
- One judge for every five speech supplemental event (Impromptu, Oral Interpretation of Poetry, and Oral Interpretation of Prose) entries

Speech and debate main event judges can be double-counted for supplemental events, but please be sure that your double-counted judges understand that they will be judging back-to-back rounds. Seniors are permitted to judge main speech and debate events but not supplemental events. Debate judges must know how to determine wins, losses, and speaker points and provide positive and constructive feedback. Speech judges must know how to rank competitors and provide positive and constructive feedback. **All judges must be trained to complete electronic ballots and have linked Tabroom accounts!**

Schools must fulfill their judging obligations for all rounds of the tournament. If one of your judges is only available on Saturday, for example, you must provide another judge to cover Friday's rounds. Please indicate each judge's availability upon registration in Tabroom and note which speech judges are qualified to judge Congress or serve as a parliamentarian. Schools that do not fulfill their judging obligations for the duration of the tournament will be dropped.

Hired Judges

We will have a limited number of hired judges available. Please enter your requests for hired judges as early as possible. Please note that you cannot hire judges to cover all of your school's judging obligations.

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony will occur at the conclusion of our tournament. The top six Congress entries, speech finalists, elimination round contestants in debate events, and sweepstakes awards will be presented.

The awards ceremony will begin at the conclusion of the final round. More information about awards will be posted on Tabroom at a later date. Awards will be mailed to the address that you provide on Tabroom for overpayment and refund checks unless you specify otherwise.

Questions

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you online in November!

Dr. Colleen Mooney
Director of Speech and Debate
Tournament Host

Mr. Tim Coughlin
Assistant Coach
Technical Director

Mr. Jeff Kahn
Tournament Director