



THUNDERING WORD

**49th Marshall University
John Marshall
Speech and Debate Tournament**

**Huntington WV
10-13 February 2021**

Dear Colleagues:

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend the 49th Marshall University John Marshall Speech and Debate Tournament to be held from Wednesday, 10 February 2021, through Saturday, 13 February 2021.

The tournament will be virtual and offer University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions speech bids.

The tournament will consist of three components:

- An **asynchronous speech tournament** for the following prepared speech events: Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Poetry Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, and Prose Interpretation. **Competitors must make links to videos available by Tuesday, 9 February 2021, at 5:00 PM.**
 - **Preliminary round judging** of videos will occur at judges' convenience between **Wednesday (beginning at 8:00 AM), Thursday, and Friday (ending at 11:59 PM), 10-12 February 2021**, at judges' convenience.
 - **Final round judging** of videos will occur on **Saturday, 13 February 2021.**
- A **synchronous debate tournament** that includes the following events: Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and SPAR Debate.
 - **Preliminary round judging** will occur on **Friday, 12 February 2021.**
 - **Elimination round judging** will occur on **Saturday, 13 February 2021.** ((It is possible that debate elimination rounds may continue into Sunday but there will be no debate judge obligation for schools if it does.)
- A **synchronous speech tournament** on **Saturday, 13 February 2021**, that includes both preliminary and final rounds of the following events: Broadcasting (Video), Extemporaneous Speaking, and Impromptu Speaking.

The synchronous schedule is designed to allow students to enter a cross-section of speech and debate events. A competitor, for instance, may enter Public Forum Debate AND Lincoln-Douglas Debate or SPAR Debate AND Extemporaneous Speaking AND Impromptu Speaking if they desire.

Platforms. We will use NSDA Campus and Tabroom and may use Zoom and/or Google Meet for limited purposes (e.g., extemp draw/judges lounge).

MUTW Live Stream. We will operate a livestream channel over YouTube on Saturday beginning at 8:00 AM. During the day, the livestream will include tournament announcements, videos of asynchronous speeches and performances, and live synchronous speeches, performances, and debates before ending with an awards presentation.

Before carrying a speech, performance, or debate over the livestream, we will verify with the coach that the competitor's parent or guardian (or the competitor if over age 18) has consented to their participation in the live stream. An authorization form is available to download on the Tabroom website.

EVENTS AND ENTRIES

This year we will offer competition in 14 different speech and debate events. The events are:

Asynchronous Speech		Synchronous Speech	Synchronous Debate
Dramatic Interpretation	Original Oratory	Broadcasting	Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Duo Interpretation	Poetry Interpretation	Extemporaneous Speaking	Public Forum Debate
Declamation	Program Oral Interpretation	Impromptu Speaking	SPAR Debate
Humorous Interpretation	Prose Interpretation		
Informative Speaking	Storytelling		

*Depending on the number of entries, all speech events may be broken into novice and varsity divisions, and all debate events may be broken into novice, junior varsity and/or varsity divisions.

STUDENT ENTRIES

A school may enter up to eight (8) students/teams in each event or each division of an event. Additional entries may be waitlisted.

Students may enter as many events as they want subject to the following restrictions:

- No student may enter more than two (2) synchronous speech events.
- No student may enter both Broadcasting and Extemporaneous Speaking.
- No student may enter both Lincoln-Douglas Debate and SPAR Debate.

Students from two different schools may compete together in Duo Interpretation or Public Forum Debate.

JUDGING ENTRIES

One judge is owed for each five (5) speech entries. One judge is owed for each two (2) debate entries.

All judges must be knowledgeable of tournament and event rules.

All judges must be made available to judge until the ballots for the last final round have been distributed.

REGISTRATION

You may register for this tournament at <http://mujm.tabroom.com>.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, 9 February, at 5:00 PM, but you are encouraged to register earlier so we can better prepare. You may make changes to your synchronous event registration through Thursday, 11 February, at 12:00 PM without any nuisance fees applying.

DEADLINES

Student entries: Tuesday, 9 February, at 5:00 PM

Student video links: Tuesday, 9 February, at 5:00 PM

Judges entries: Tuesday, 9 February, at 5:00 PM

Fees & obligations freeze: Thursday, 11 February, at 12:00 PM

Online drops & name changes: Thursday, 11 February, at 12:00 PM

Nuisance fees apply after Thursday, 11 February, at 12:00 PM

FEES

ENTRY FEES

Speech individual events:	\$9.00 per entry
Speech duo events:	\$18.00 per team
Lincoln-Douglas Debate:	\$12.00 per entry
SPAR Debate:	\$12.00 per entry
Public Forum Debate:	\$18.00 per team

JUDGING FEES*

Uncovered speech entries:	\$10.00 per entry
Uncovered debate entries:	\$30.00 per entry
No-show:	\$30.00 per round

**The designation of any judge as both a speech and a debate judge will result in a discount on uncovered entries.*

STUDENT ADD/DROP FEES

Thursday, 11 February (after 12:00 PM)	\$10.00 + entry fee
Friday, 12 February (before 8:00 AM)	\$15.00 + entry fee
Friday, 12 February (after 8:00 AM)	\$25.00 + entry fee

JUDGE DROP FEES

Thursday, 11 February (after 12:00 PM)	\$50.00
Friday, 12 February (after 8:00 AM)	\$100.00

To avoid high drop fees on the day of the tournament, call or text Clara Adkins with any drops no later than 8:00 AM.

INVOICE/PAYMENT

You can print your invoice through tabroom.com. Mail your payment to the address on the invoice.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

See the Tabroom “Tentative Schedule” page, which will be renamed “Schedule,” shortly before the tournament starts.

SPEECH EVENTS

DIVISIONS

Speech events may be divided into novice and varsity divisions or a novice final round may be held if there are at least 12 novice contestants.

EVENT RULES

The tournament follows National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) high school rules for the following events: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, and Programmed Oral Interpretation.

The tournament generally follows NSDA high school rules for Extemporaneous Speaking, except there will be no cross-examination in the final round.

The tournament follows National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) rules for the following events: Prose Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), Poetry Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), and Declamation (Oratorical Declamation). Declamation is limited to middle school students, freshmen, and sophomores.

The tournament rules for other events are as follows:

Broadcasting (TV/Video) – The tournament follows West Virginia Speech and Debate Association (WVSDA) rules (see <http://wvsda.org>) for this event, except that all rounds are TV news. Contestants are judged not only on what is heard, but also how it is presented. Judge eye contact, facial expression, and body movement.

- Round 1 (prepared video news): No preparation time; contestants report to round. Contestants will prepare a news script using up-to-date material. An introduction, sign-off, and brief commercial (15 seconds suggested length) must be included in the broadcast. Contestants must give a copy of the script to the judge and present all copy as it appears in the script. Maximum time limit: 3 minutes with 30 second grace period both above and below the time limit.
- Round 2 (verbatim video news): 15 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants are given a news script and must deliver it verbatim with the following exceptions: An introduction and sign-off are required, and transitions may be used. There is no time limit.
- Round 3, semi-finals, finals (cut video news): 30 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants must edit the copy given to them and include an introduction, impromptu commercial, and sign-off within a five-minute time frame. During the round, contestants may use a stopwatch as judges will not give time signals. Maximum time limit: 5 minutes with no grace period.

Storytelling – Each contestant presents a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend which must be retold without props. A book or script may be used but is not required. The contestant must not materially change the content of the story. Contestants may sit on the floor, stand and/or use a limited amount of room for movement. No chairs may be used. Original introductory remarks are permitted. Maximum time limit: 10 minutes with 30 second grace period.

TIMING AND TIME LIMITS

With the exception of extemporaneous speaking (7 minutes with 30 second grace period), impromptu speaking (7 minutes with 30 second grace period for both prep and speaking), and broadcasting (time limits vary by round), the maximum time limit per event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period.

There is no minimum time for any event at this tournament.

Judges must time all events. Judges, however, are required to give contestants time signals only in extemporaneous speaking and impromptu speaking.

ROUNDS

There will be 3 preliminary rounds and either one or two elimination rounds for each speech event unless the event has fewer than 10 contestants in which case there will be no elimination rounds. If a speech event has 25 or more contestants/teams, the event will break to two or three sections of semi-finals and then to finals. If the speech event has 10 to 24 contestants/teams, the event will break only to finals. Preliminary rounds will have one judge and elimination rounds will have at least three judges.

BREAKING TIES

The following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: total ranks, reciprocal fractions, total speaker points. If a tie remains, all tied contestants advance.

The following is the order for determining placement in elimination rounds: total ranks, judges' preference, total speaker points, highest seed after preliminary rounds.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to semi-finalists and finalists for all speech events that break to semi-finals then finals. Awards will be given to finalists for all speech events that break to finals. For speech events that do not break to finals, awards will be given to no more than half of the contestants. For any event that does not have a novice division, a top novice award will also be given.

DEBATE EVENTS

RULES

The tournament follows NSDA high school rules for Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation) is a limited preparation debate event where students debate a different resolution or topic each round.

- **Resolutions/Topics.** If the resolution is "RESOLVED: The Affordable Care Act should be repealed," the affirmative speaker argues in favor of repeal while the negative speaker argues against it. Similarly, if the topic is "Dogs vs. Cats," the affirmative speaker argues in favor of dogs and against cats, while the negative speaker argues in favor of cats and against dogs. (SPAR debate typically includes rounds of serious and non-so-serious topics.)

- **Burden of Proof.** The Affirmative does not carry the burden of proof as in some debate events because the Affirmative does not both open and close the debate. The winner is the person who did the better debating.
- **Rebuttals/Summaries.** Debaters should not raise new arguments in rebuttals or summaries. Debaters, however, may respond to their opponent's previously made arguments and expand on their own previously made arguments (e.g., by offering evidence to support or rebut a previously made argument or highlighting the importance of an argument).
- **Judging Criteria.** Judges should decide the round as it is debated, not based on personal beliefs. The following are criteria judges should consider when judging SPAR debate: Understanding of topic, organization, arguments, evidence (facts, examples, statistics, etc.), rebuttal/counter-arguments/clash, and delivery.
- **Resolution/Topic Selection.** Opposing SPAR debaters will go to their competition room. The judge or a tournament administrator will enter the competition around the time prep should begin and post three (3) resolutions/topics in the chat box. The negative debater first strikes one (1) of the resolutions/topics, then the affirmative debater strikes another one. The remaining resolution/topic is the one the debaters will debate. The administrator verifies with the debaters the resolution/topic they have chosen and the sides they will be on before excusing them to prep. The tournament administrator then posts the chosen topic and the round start time in the chat box.
- **Initial Prep Time.** Students will be given fifteen (15) minutes prep time.
- **Purpose of Initial Prep Time.** During prep time, students should brainstorm and prepare to present brief arguments for the debate. Students also may conduct online or other research during that time, as well. While evidence may be used, it is not the focal point of SPAR debate and students should not spend the majority of their time searching for evidence.
- **No External Assistance During Prep/Debate.** Students may not receive assistance in any form from another person during prep time or during the debate.
- **Order of Debate.** The order of debate is as follows:
 - Affirmative constructive case (2 minutes): The debater supporting the resolution or advocating the first topic over a second one presents their case/position.
 - Cross examination (1 minute): The negative debater asks the affirmative debater questions.
 - Negative constructive case (2 minutes): The debater opposing the resolution or the advocating the second topic over a first one presents their case/position.
 - Cross examination (1 minute): The affirmative debater asks the negative debater questions.
 - Mandatory prep time (1 minute): Both debaters have one minute to prepare for rebuttal arguments.
 - Affirmative rebuttal (2 minutes): The affirmative debater refutes the negative debater's case and reinforces their own case.
 - Negative rebuttal (2 minutes): The negative debater refutes the affirmative debater's case reinforces their own case.
 - Mandatory prep time (1 minute): Both debaters have one minute to prepare for summary arguments.
 - Affirmative summary (2 minutes): The affirmative debater explains why the judge should vote in their favor.
 - Negative summary (2 minutes): The negative debater explains why the judge should vote in their favor.

table consideration of a bill/resolution but may not reorder the docket.) (6) The number of speeches per bill/resolution will be limited to nine so more bills/resolutions may be considered.

DIVISIONS

Debate events may be divided into varsity, junior varsity, and/or novice divisions if there would be at least 10 teams from a cross-section of schools in each division.

TOPICS

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate topics will be the NSDA topics for February 2021.

ROUNDS

For Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate, there will be 4 preliminary rounds and two or three elimination rounds for each debate event if the event has 8 or more entries. If a debate event has 6 or 7 entries, the debate event will have only a final round. If the debate event has 5 or few entries, round-robin format will be used. Preliminary rounds will have one judge, and elimination rounds will have at least three judges.

PAIRINGS

Unless a round-robin format is being used, students from the same school will not debate one another in preliminary rounds. Students, however, may debate one another in elimination rounds. In such a case, the coach will make the decision whether the two competitors or teams debate.

Unless a round-robin format is used, Round 1 will be preset and Rounds 2, 3, and 4 will be power matched.

The default semi-final pairing will be 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3, but 1 vs. 3 and 2 vs. 4 may be used if doing so will prevent debaters from the same school from hitting one another.

BREAKING TIES

The following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: win-loss record, head-to-head outcome, speaker points, speaker points except best and worst, judge variance, and coin flip.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to semi-finalists and finalists for all debate events that break to semi-finals then finals. Awards will be given to finalists for all debate events that break directly to finals. For events that do not break to finals (e.g., operate using a round-robin format), awards will be given to the top two debaters or debate teams.

Awards will be given to the six best speakers across debate events based on speaker points in preliminary rounds. Ties will be broken based on speaker points except best and worst, head-to-head score, and win-loss record.

For any event that does not have a novice division, a top novice award may also be given.

JUDGING

A judge may seek clarification concerning whether a rule violation has occurred from tournament hosts. But it will be the responsibility of the judge, not tournament hosts, to determine the appropriate penalty for a rule violation.

NOVICE, JUNIOR VARSITY, VARSITY STATUS

A novice student is someone in their first year of high school competition OR in middle school. Tournament directors will use Tabroom student coding to determine if a student is a novice.

A junior varsity student is a debater who is in their second year of high school competition.

A varsity student is one who is not a novice or junior varsity student.

SWEEPSTAKES

SCORING SYSTEM

If you want information about the sweepstakes scoring system used, please contact the tournament director.

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES

The six students who earn the most sweepstakes points will receive awards. To be eligible for individual sweepstakes, a student must enter at least three events.

TEAM SWEEPSTAKES

The six schools that earn the most sweepstakes points across all events will receive awards. Only a school's top three entries in an event count toward team sweepstakes.

Depending on the size of the tournament, separate team sweepstakes awards may be given in speech and debate, among middle schools, and among schools with small entries.

TRAVELING TROPHY

The tournament presents a traveling trophy to the team with the highest number of sweepstakes points over the years. Once a school wins, its total points go to zero.

Congratulations to last year's winner: Parkersburg High School!

The top ten schools going into the tournament are: (1) Huntington High School – 1,679 points; (2) Parkersburg South High School – 1,451 points; (3) John Marshall High School – 1,194.5 points; (4) Fairmont Senior High School – 1,038.5 points; (5) Capital High School – 958.5 points; (6) Mount Vernon High School – 947 points; (7) George Washington High School – 909 points; (8) Point Pleasant Jr./Sr. High School – 848.5 points; (9) Rowan County High School – 834 points; and (10) Braxton County High School – 791.5 points. A team must be present to win.

If you have any questions, please contact me. We look forward to seeing you this winter!

Sincerely,

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