

# Welcome

Dear Debate Coach,

The Blake School Debate Team is honored to extend to your school an invitation to attend the 58th Annual John Edie Holiday Debate Tournament, December 18-21, 2020. This will be our first virtual Edie tournament. We are looking forward to an extremely competitive pool in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional Debate and World Schools. We are also including a novice/middle school policy division. We are pleased to announce that **Tournament of Champions bids will be awarded to the octofinalists in Policy and Public Forum and quarterfinalists in Lincoln-Douglas and the top six in Congressional Debate.** All debate rounds will be held virtually on classrooms.cloud.

Also we are having the 5th Annual "Diversity and Inclusion: In debate and the classroom" conference on Tuesday December 22, 2020. More details to follow.

We are pleased to offer the 13th Annual Blake School Twin Cities Public Forum Round Robin. This round robin will invite several of the finest public forum teams in the country to compete. We have moved the public forum division to three days this year and will run the round robin on Monday December 21. Our goal is to invite community members from the Twin Cities to provide a diverse judge pool and highlight the activity of debate to all of the Twin Cities. The goal for this event is great competition and high visibility. We will use the NFL January 2021 Public Forum Topic.

We sincerely hope that you and your teams will be able to join us this year. We will be working hard to make this an enjoyable event and looking to add some aspects that we believe will ensure excellent debates and also may make this more than just another tournament weekend at your desk. We hope it can add some Blake flair and fun.

Email us at [blakedebate.helpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:blakedebate.helpdesk@gmail.com) with your questions.

Sincerely,

The Blake School Debate Directors and Coaches  
Shane Stafford – Sandy Berkowitz  
Christian Vasquez – Ellie Singer - Eva Motolinia – Darren Chang  
Chloe Ricks – Sierra Erdman-Luntz – Shreya Yadav - Carson Crane

# General Information

**DATES:** December 18-20, 2019 (PF Round Robin December 21)

**LOCATION:** All rounds will be on classrooms.cloud tournament website. No rounds should occur elsewhere unless approved by the tournament director.

## **DIVISION INFORMATION:**

Six divisions will be offered: Varsity Policy, Varsity Public Forum, Varsity Lincoln-Douglas, World Schools Debate, Varsity Congressional Debate and Novice/Middle School policy.

- **In Policy the 20-21 NSDA national topic will be used.**
- **In Lincoln-Douglas, the national January-February 2021 topic will be used.**
- **In Public Forum, the national January 2021 topic will be used.**

For specific division and schedule information see each of the appropriate pages on the tabroom page.

- [Worlds Debate Division Information](#)
- [Policy Debate Division Information](#)
- [MS/Novice Policy Debate Division Information](#)
- [LD Debate Division Information](#)
- [Public Forum Debate Division Information](#)
- [Congressional Debate Division Information](#)

## **Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:**

This tournament has a long history of being committed to diversity and inclusion in debate and we hope that our policies promote those mission goals of the tournament. This includes but may not be limited to:

- All panels will be constructed to maximize the participation of women, gender minorities and individuals who identify as BIPOC. There may be a panel of three white males that gives the teams a panel rank of 3, but the tab room will prefer a panel of a higher rank total if it is able to maximize diversity on the panel. The tab will seek to provide as close to a mutual preference panel that represents diversity.
- The Edie supports equity and fairness in competition. We will not tolerate harassment or discrimination. To that end, we will have a Rules committee (chaired by Byron Arthur) and an Equity committee (chaired by Renea Moss). If a competitor, judge, or coach wishes to file a Rules protest or Equity violation, access the committee by following the instructions on Tabroom. The committee chair will then invite those who filed into a Zoom room.
- Our Twin Cities Round Robin has invited 12 public forum teams and each of those teams selected include at least one member that represents women, a gender minority, or an individual who identifies as BIPOC.
- All judges will be asked to read a NSDA PDF on culturally competent judging and will certify in tabroom they have read and consider the issues in this document.

## Required Elements for all schools and judges to participate:

- First - School release form. One per school submitted on tabroom by the head coach/adult in charge of the team. [Instructions here](#). This is a team form and coaches must make sure the students understand the commitments in this letter. If a student chooses not to agree to this letter then they will not participate.
- Second - school streaming decision form. This is a simple decision for the head coach to either say 1) Yes we may stream any of your students in a competitive round -- commenting on the stream or the video will be disabled. We plan to leave these streams up later for education use but will accept a coach request to remove them later. Or 2) Do not stream any of my students. Or 3) you may submit a list of which teams agree to streaming on your squad and which ones do not. We require this decision prior to participating in the tournament. If you change your mind mid-tournament we will attempt to change the streams as soon as we can communicate that to our streaming individuals but no guarantees.
- Third - judge Training commitment form. This form will have the head coach sign that their judges will read and consider the pdf document "[Culturally Competent Judging](#)". It is the head coach job to confirm with their judges that they will read this document.
- Fourth - each coach will indicate if they plan to send proof of check request made via an email attached image of the request or that they will request an online Square invoice. One of these must be done before you are admitted to the tournament.
- Numbers 2-4 will combine in one form for the head coach to fill out, scan and upload to tabroom.