



October 25th, 2020

Dear Forensics Coaches, Judges, and Participants:

On behalf of the Columbia Debate Society, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2021 Columbia Invitational, our 19th annual competition to be held from Friday, January 29th, 2021 to Sunday, January 31st, 2021. Due to COVID-19, we have decided to host our tournament virtually this year, using the NSDA Campus software. More details about online tournament procedures can be found in this invitation.

The tournament will consist of competition in Varsity, JV, and Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate. We plan to hold six prelim rounds in each event (with the possibility of a Round 7 in Varsity PF depending on the number of registered teams).

We are pleased to announce that we can provide bids to the Tournament of Champions for participants that reach finals in Lincoln-Douglas and quarter-finals in PF.

Joining us as Tab Director is Jim Menick. Additionally, we thank Charlie Sloat and Sheryl Kaczmarek for assisting us in tab and helping our tournament run smoothly.

This packet should answer any questions you may have about the tournament. If you need any additional information, please email us at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

Best,

Grace Protasiewicz
Tournament Director



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

2021 Columbia Invitational High School Forensics Tournament

Event Rules

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The resolution will be the January-February NSDA topic. Lincoln-Douglas will follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format, with 4 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, adjusted points, total points, double-adjusted points, judge variance, opponent wins, and flip of a coin, in that order. The break will depend on the number of teams registered (last year the break was double-octos). The TOC bid is at VLD *finals*.

Public Forum Debate

We will follow all NSDA rules for the event as they stand for the start of the school year and use the NSDA topic for January 2021. Debaters will have 3 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken using the same criteria as Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The event will probably break to double-octofinals. The TOC bid is at Varsity *quarterfinals*.

Judging Requirements and Policies

Teams should bring the following number of qualified judges:

PF:	1 judge / 2 teams
LD:	1 judge / 2 entries

Obligations

Judges in LD and PF are tentatively obligated to judge through octafinals then one round past the last full round in which their students are active.

A number of judges will be available for hire. Requesting a hired judge does not guarantee that the request will be accepted. **Acceptances will be sent by email via tabroom.com.**

Paradigms

Judges in the varsity events must publish paradigms on tabroom.com for their teams to get strikes. Judges in other divisions are strongly recommended to do likewise.

Tab & Ballots

We will publicly post the results of every round in LD and PF after each round is tabbed, to serve as a confirmation. Though judges in debate events are not required to disclose their decisions, they are highly encouraged to do so and give feedback and critiques.

Awards

All competitors reaching elimination rounds will receive awards. Logistical details for mailing awards to participants will be specified at a later date.

Registration

General Information

All registration will take place online via our Tabroom tournament page.

Waitlist

To accommodate as many teams as possible as efficiently as possible, we will open registration for the tournament on tabroom.com on a waitlist-only basis. Schools with a history of judge absences and unpaid fees will be given precedence for remaining on the waitlist until next year.

Waitlists will be cleared roughly two weeks after registration opens.

Eligibility

The tournament is open only to 9th - 12th graders officially representing the schools they attend. Teams must comprise entries from the same school. No independent or student-created entries or anonymous team accounts will be considered. The listed contact must be an adult, i.e., over 21 years of age. Registrations will be carefully vetted for compliance.

Novice is defined as a student in their first season (2020-21) of debate competition at any level. **JV divisions** are limited to students not past their second year of debate competition at any level. Coaches may contact the tournament directors if they wish to offer exceptions.

Fees and Fines

Registration Fees

Varsity LD	\$70/entry
Novice/JV LD	\$60/entry
Varsity PF	\$80/entry
Novice/JV PF	\$70/entry

Fines and Deadlines

Arriving with fewer judges than claimed:	\$500/judge
Unreported team drops day of tournament	\$100
Judge misses a preliminary round	\$50/round
Judge misses an elimination round	\$100/round

All payment is due by the start of competition on Friday, January 29th.

Notes on Fees and Fines:

We will be accepting payment via check. Please mail checks to the following address:

Administration and Planning
Lerner 510, Mail Code 2601
2920 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Make the checks out to “The Trustees of Columbia University” and on the Memo line, please write “Columbia Debate Society”.

Schools with unpaid fines will not advance to elims, and will be noted as non-payers for future tournaments.

Please do not submit payments late. If you anticipate having trouble submitting your payment on time, or have any questions about how to send in payment, please email the tournament director, Grace Protasiewicz, at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

Online Tournament Logistics

Schedule

The schedule of rounds for each division/event will be posted online on the tournament page.

Online Platform

We will be using the NSDA Campus software for this year’s tournament. Guidelines for how to use this software will be released prior to the tournament.

Equity

The Columbia Invitational is committed to prioritizing safety and equity concerns of its participants. As a result, we have put together an equity team for the tournament, the members of which will be available for competitors and judges to contact throughout the weekend with any equity-related issues. The equity team has also put together an equity policy, which can be found on our Tabroom page.

