



Belvidere North Thunder Invitational Online Debate Tournament



Saturday, December 5, 2020

Welcome to our fifth invitational! We are so excited to have you and look forward to having a day of spirited competition. We will offer competition in all three divisions of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum.

The entry cost will be \$25 per team in Public Forum and per person in Lincoln-Douglas. Please make checks payable to Belvidere North High School.

One adult judge is required for every two Public Forum pairs/teams. One adult judge is required for every two Lincoln-Douglas entries. In the Novice level, students with 3 or more years of experience in a specific division will be allowed to judge in that division.

PF Topic: RESOLVED: The United States should adopt a declaratory nuclear policy of no first use.

LD Topic: RESOLVED: The United States ought to provide a federal jobs guarantee.

Tentative Tournament Schedule

7:30-8:00	Registration/Online check-in
8:00	Tournament Announcements
8:30	Round I (preset)
9:45	Round II (preset)
11:00	Round III (power matched from I & II)
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Round IV (power matched from III)
2:00	Round V (power matched from IV)
3:15	Awards livestream



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Judging Expectations

It is the obligation of the program's head coach to make sure each judge has read and understood the following expectations and has been trained in how to judge the event for which they have been registered.

This is an educational activity and the students are our main priority. Please do your best to support our mission. Judges at all times are expected to act in a dignified and professional manner.

Competition Guidelines

- 1. Cameras should remain on and debaters should remain on screen during the entirety of the round.** (Of course, judges can grant permission to go off camera for extenuating circumstances.)
- 2. Debaters should remain on mute unless they are giving a speech or participating in cross-examination.**
- 3. Public Forum partners can use additional devices to communicate with their partners.** They may remain on mute during preparation periods. LD Debaters should not be communicating with anyone outside of the round.
- 4. For evidence sharing and reviews within a round,** there is a file-sharer within NSDA Campus. Google Drive or group emails are also options.
- 5. For minor lag and connectivity issues that are quickly resolved,** judges can pause the time and continue the round.
- 6. For major connectivity issues that affect only one side of the debate,** we will use the following rule: "If one side is unable to participate in the round for a cumulative time of 10 minutes, they must forfeit the round. The judge may award speaker points based on observed performance."
- 7. Rounds should start ASAP.** If a debater is not present within 10 minutes of the release of pairings, please have someone communicate that with the tab room. **DO NOT JUST SIT IN THE ROOM.** Students who do not report to their room within 10 minutes will receive a forfeit for the round.
- 8. Judges should verbally verify the debater information that is on the ballot.** In Public Forum, especially, please confirm School Names, Sides of the Debate, and Speaking Order (e.g. the CON may at times speak first instead of the PRO, unlike Lincoln-Douglas procedure). Debaters should legibly write their team information on the boards in the classrooms or on the ballot itself. Please make sure to include School Name and codes on the ballot. Please be mindful of who is in the room. Make sure the correct teams are there and did not accidentally walk into the wrong room.

9. **Be attentive during all parts of the debate.** Judges are expected to flow (take careful notes) during speeches and listen attentively during Cross-Ex/Crossfire. Judges can use timers and laptops to adjudicate the round, but texting during the debate conveys serious disregard to the debaters in the round (and the coaches/schools who hired you).
10. **You may disclose your decision** if judging JV or Varsity divisions.
11. **If you do not receive a ballot**, please wait in the judges' lounge until we release you. It will allow us to replace judges quickly.

Thank you for taking time to support our students and for adhering to our rules. We realize how important our judges are to the success of this tournament, and we are here to support you and our students. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the tab room immediately.

Speaker Point Scale

Judges must follow the speaker point scale, regardless of what they are used to or may prefer, so that there is a fair standard across all rounds. Plus, if we have a standard, points provide meaningful feedback instead of being arbitrary and useless! The other thing to keep in mind with regard to speaker points, is that you can tie teams, giving them all the same points, or giving two or three speakers the same points.

- 30:** I wish I could frame your speeches – hard to imagine a better speaker
- 29.0-29.5:** you left no doubt about who won and are an excellent speaker
- 28.0-28.5:** you were effective and strategic, and made only minor mistakes
- 27.5:** you hit all the right notes, but could improve (e.g. depth or efficiency)
- 27.0:** you mainly did the right thing, but left something to be desired
- 26.5:** you missed major things and were hard to follow
- 26.0:** you advanced little in the debate or cost your team the round
- 25.0-25.5:** you are not ready for this division/tournament
- Below 25:** you were offensive, ignorant, rude, or tried to cheat (MUST come to tab)

Low-point wins (where the winning team has fewer points than the losing team) are allowed.