

Dear Forensics Coach Friends,

You and your team are invited to the 2021 Talking Tiger Forensics tournament. Due to the current attendance restrictions in place due to COVID-19, the tournament will be held remotely, utilizing Tabroom and Zoom. The official tournament date is March 6. Asynchronous (pre-recorded) preliminary rounds for all events will occur March 1-4. Synchronous finals will take place on Saturday, March 6.



Please note - this is a closed tournament, by invitation only, and entry is limited to 15 schools. Each school may enter up to 22 total entries, with a maximum of THREE entries per event. Final entries are due by Feb. 26 at 5:00 p.m. Entry videos for prelim events are due by Feb. 28 at 5:00 p.m. Your team is financially responsible for entry fees as of that time.

Entry fees: Because of the short time-frame, and the fact that I usually appeal to you to help me find judges, this year, we will again offer an entry fee incentive for providing a judge or two.

- No judge ~ **\$5** per individual event; **\$10** per IDA & Duet team
- If you provide a judge for async &/or finals rounds ~ **\$4** per individual event; **\$8** per IDA & Duet team
~**Note: Coaches may also be asked to judge at least one round**

Registration in Tabroom will <http://talkingtiger4n6.tabroom.com/>. You will need a Tabroom account for the coach, each competitor, and each judge you provide. Please also give me a preliminary indication of entry numbers on the [Google Spreadsheet](#) so I may begin scheduling judges. There is also a place to include the name(s) of the judges you will provide.

Details:

- We will offer the following events: *Extemp, Oration, Informative, Prose, Poetry, POI, Serious Solo Acting, Humorous Solo Acting, Duet Acting, Improvised Duet Acting, and Impromptu.*
 - Extemp topics will be taken from a variety of current news sources
 - Impromptu topics will utilize the traditional categories - quotations, famous people, proverbs, and abstract nouns.
- There will be three preliminary rounds, and all events will use pre-recorded videos. Videos cannot use professional backgrounds, greenscreens, editing, etc. Each entry **MUST** include the following spoken statement (or something similar) at the beginning: "This is for theTalking Tiger tournament."
 - Coaches are responsible for uploading video links along with entries on Tabroom. Prelims will be judged during the week, with finals announced Friday prior to the Saturday finals round(s).
 - I will note, based on experience & comments from judges I've worked with, please take into account the sound levels/quality of recordings.
- Students may enter two events, however, they may **NOT** enter two draw events, **including Impromptu** (*since we're doing things on Zoom, it will have prescribed draw/perform times too*). All KSHSAA rules will be followed, except foreign and domestic extemporaneous topics will be mixed in one draw.
 - I will send the same selection of extemp questions, IDA draw topics and Impromptu topics for all competitors to use in prelims. I will trust coaches to not assist with the draws but to in some way monitor their students' prep time prior to recording speeches.

- Draws for the finals will take place in Zoom breakout rooms and will be done in a more “traditional” fashion. More details will be shared closer to 3/6.
- Participating schools may determine whether to use split screens or mask your performers for duet & IDA teams, keeping in practice with the policies in place for your school district & county.
- Final rounds will be held for each event that has more than one room of competition. Finals will be cut-throat.
- Medals will be awarded to the top six places in each event. Sweepstakes will be based on the top two entries per event per school, and calculated on a 5-point scale. Plaques will be awarded for the top three schools.

If you know anyone interested in serving as a judge, either for the asynchronous or synchronous portion of the tournament, please let me know so I may reach out to them.

Please let me know what questions you have - while I did just finish hosting my league tournament using Tabroom, it's hardly second nature yet, and I'm sure I'm forgetting important details!

Thanks much for your input, and help!
Noelle Walters