



Massachusetts Middle School
Speech League

WELCOME TO WINTER

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Dear MMSSL Member Schools,

We are overjoyed to announce the Welcome to Winter Speech Tournament hosted by the MMSSL Board, which will be held on Sunday, December 12th, 2021. This tournament will be a synchronous virtual event. **We recommend ALL coaches and judges (new and returning) read the [MMSSL 2021-2022 Judging Guide](#).**

The competition is open to veteran and novice competitors in grades 6 through 8. The tournament will be hosted via the National Speech and Debate Association's Campus platform. There will be three rounds of competition and a final round, followed by an Awards Ceremony. We are offering all 10 regular events. There is no limit to the number of students that any one school may enter, and no entry fee. However, each school must provide **one judge per five entries**.

All entries must be submitted via [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) by **Wednesday, December 8th at 9:00pm**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

The MMSSL Board

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REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Registration for the December 12th Welcome to Winter tournament is due **Wednesday, December 8th at 9:00pm.**

Students AND judges will need to create a free account on [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) to participate. More information about Tabroom.com and the connected video platform, NSDA Campus, is available in the [**MIMSSL 2021 Judging Guide.**](#)

Key registration details:

- This tournament is single-entry. All 10 regular events will be offered.
- Competition is open to novice and veteran competitors in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- We are requesting that each team provide 1 judge for every 5 competitors.
- Please note that there is **NO ENTRY FEE** for this event.

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SPEECH EVENTS

All 10 regular competition events will be offered at the virtual tournament. To see a complete list and descriptions for each event, please consult the [MMSSL 2021-2022 Judging Guide](#) or [our website at mmssl.weebly.com](http://mmssl.weebly.com).

Please note that, due to the digital format of the tournament, the following events have had slight protocol changes from previous years:

- Judges will be sent a list of Impromptu topics via email, with a set of 3 topics for each competitor. During an Impromptu round, the judge will copy and paste a different set of 3 topics into the chat for each competitor when it is their turn to speak.
- In order to conform to social distancing guidelines, Duo performers must join each round separately and perform separately. (This rule also applies to Duo pairs who may be quarantining together.) In Duo rounds, any students not performing should mute themselves and turn off their video so that the current performers are the only ones visible. (If the judge needs to give time signals, they can leave their video on as well.) Duo competitors will need to assume that their video windows may not be positioned near each other in the video chat screen, and that simultaneous speaking may not be possible. Duo performers are allowed to leave the video frame as part of their blocking

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VIDEO PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

Here are a few useful tips for students as they prepare for online speech competitions:

- **Students planning to use a smart phone or tablet to compete must download the Jitsi app to access their video rounds.** (Students using laptops will be able to access their rounds through their usual web browser.)
- Students should check in with other members of their household, to prevent any interruptions or WiFi issues.
- Your filming location should be relatively quiet, and with few distracting decorations or pieces of furniture.
- Students should make sure that the camera remains as still as possible while filming, and that the camera is positioned so that as much of the student is able to be seen as possible.
- **There is no dress code for this tournament.** However, costumes and props (except for those usually allowed in competition) are still not permitted. We also recommend that no distracting or inappropriate clothing be worn during the tournament rounds.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Zoom links for the Opening Meetings, Open Finals, and the Awards Ceremonies will be sent out the week of the tournament.

May be subject to change, depending on the number of entries:

8:45-9:15am - Opening Meeting for Judges and Competitors, held via Zoom. Judges and competitors will be invited to a Zoom meeting, hosted by a member of the MMSSL Board.

9:30am-10:45am - Round 1

10:45am-12:00pm - Round 2

12:00pm-1:15pm - Round 3

1:15pm - Lunch Break

2:30pm-4:00pm - Finals (We are hoping to offer two of our Final Rounds as Zoom seminars open to observers. Links coming soon!)

4:00pm - Awards Ceremony.