

# Season Opener

**July 30th - 31st, Online**

*Hosted by*



On behalf of Equality in Forensics, we invite you to attend the Season Opener, scheduled to occur July 30th to July 31st, 2022. The objective of Equality in Forensics is to provide free, online debate opportunities to make speech and debate more accessible to high school students across America. [Read more about our mission here.](#)

The Spring Break Special will offer **Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum, Extemporaneous Speaking**, and will operate on National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) standard [procedure and rules](#). Rounds will be held in Zoom rooms.

Registration and tabulation is on Tabroom, which you can find here: [equalityinfoforensics.tabroom.com](https://equalityinfoforensics.tabroom.com).

Find the [full tournament schedule here](#).

You can contact Equality in Forensics through our email [equalityinfoforensics@gmail.com](mailto:equalityinfoforensics@gmail.com). Additionally, you can join our community and contact us directly on our [Discord server](#).

We are excited to host this tournament to demonstrate the impact of online speech & debate, exercise our values of accessibility and equality, and display the power of student initiative. See you there!

- *Equality in Forensics Board of Directors*

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## **Virtual Protocol**

The Spring Break Special will be hosted on Zoom. All rounds will be hosted on Zoom, and no rounds may be conducted outside of Zoom unless otherwise specified by tournament staff.

Participating in this tournament as either a judge or a competitor is a certification that you and your guardians (if you are under the age of 18) have given respective consent for you to judge or compete.

This is a list of best practices to follow while competing. Please do your best to follow these standards.

- a) Update Zoom to the latest version before the day of competition
- b) Check your Tabroom email for round info or other updates regularly.
- c) Mute your microphone if not speaking.
- d) Keep cameras on whenever possible.
- e) If you are an observer, keep your camera off and remain named 'Observer' in the Zoom room.

If you encounter any technical issues, please let tournament staff know as soon as possible. This can be done by emailing us ([equalityinforesics@gmail.com](mailto:equalityinforesics@gmail.com)) or contacting us on our [Discord server](#).

Tournament updates will be pushed out through email, as well as Discord. If you are judging or competing it is highly recommended that you join our [Discord server](#), not only to stay on top of updates, but also to join our lovely community!

We ask that judges please take note of technical issues and the challenges faced in the digital world. Please do not let technical issues sway your decision, and if you encounter any problems yourself, please reach out to tournament staff ASAP.

## **Accountability**

Equality in Forensics highly values accountability, diversity, and tolerance.

Our tournament staff is subject to an honor code, as well as an accountability policy. If you observe any violation of this policy, or have other concerns about a tournament staff member's integrity, please reach out to us by email: [equalityinforesics@gmail.com](mailto:equalityinforesics@gmail.com). All reports will be handled in a discrete manner in accordance with our accountability policy.

Our staff, competitors, and judges are held to a standard of tolerance. If you are reading potentially objectionable arguments, please run it by your judge and opponent first. Our priority is inclusion. If you have concerns about intolerance, harassment, discrimination, or other problems in- or out-of-round, please contact a tournament staff member or reach out to us by email: [equalityinforesics@gmail.com](mailto:equalityinforesics@gmail.com).

To prevent such incidents from occurring, we highly encourage all judges to read through the "Cultural Competence Training Handout" and watch the "Cultural Competence Training Video" on [NSDA's official website](#).

[Read more about our accountability policy.](#)

# Timeline

Timeline subject to change. Please reach out on [Discord](#) or by email with any questions.

[equalityinforensics@gmail.com](mailto:equalityinforensics@gmail.com)

June 13th	Online registration for competitors and judges begins on <a href="http://equalityinforensics.tabroom.com">equalityinforensics.tabroom.com</a> .
June 20th	Congress legislation packet is released on <a href="http://equalityinforensics.tabroom.com">equalityinforensics.tabroom.com</a> .
July 26th	Registration for competitors closes for all events. All drops, changes, and obligations are due.
July 30th	Tournament begins!

# Events

All events will follow NSDA rules unless otherwise specified.

## Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There will be one (1) open division of Lincoln-Douglas Debate. After three (3) preliminary rounds, there will be partial quarterfinals and quarterfinals as necessary, then single-flighted semifinals and finals.

Debaters will have four (4) minutes of prep time each. The topic for LD will be the 2022 **Summer camp topic: Resolved: The United States ought to implement a single-payer universal healthcare system.**

## Public Forum Debate

There will be one (1) open division of Public Forum Debate. After three (3) preliminary rounds, there will be octafinals and quarterfinals as necessary, then single-flighted semifinals and finals.

Debaters will have three (3) minutes of prep time each. The topic for PF will be the 2022 **Summer camp topic Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its investment in high-speed rail.**

## Extemporaneous Speaking

There will be one (1) open division of Public Forum Debate. There will be mixed domestic and international topics. After three (3) preliminary rounds, there will be semifinals and finals.

Speakers will have thirty (30) minutes of prep time each. The topic areas are as follows:

Prelim 1: US Government

Prelim 2: The Pacific

Prelim 3: Culture & Society

Semifinals: Sanctions

Finals: Inequality in America

### Congressional Debate

There will be one (1) open division of Congressional Debate. After two (2) preliminary rounds, if necessary, there will be a final round.

Preliminary rounds will last no longer than two (2) hours, and finals will last no longer than two and a half (2.5) hours from the time of the first speech.

The legislation packet is posted on Tabroom. If there are fewer than 20 people attending congress by the time tech checks have been completed, the prelims and finals dockets will be merged, and finals will be canceled - in this case, chambers will be free to set the **docket for either chamber using any bill.**

## **Eligibility**

All students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete. All students currently enrolled in grades 9-12, as well as qualified adults, coaches, or former competitors, are eligible to judge.

Independents are allowed, and common! Equality in Forensics thinks that independent entry into competitions allows students to grow externally from their debate program, giving them more opportunities to improve, network, and compete.

Teams from non-educational institutions or informal groups are also allowed!

Judge selection is subject to the discretion of tournament staff. We will select the most qualified judges, and do our best to avoid having students and FYOs judging.

## **Judging**

As a student-run, fully online tournament, we deeply appreciate our judges. By making this tournament possible, you enable our mission of making speech & debate more accessible across the country.

Judge registration opens July 1st. Judge registration and pairings remain subject to change throughout the competition.

Students and FYOs may judge, but we will prioritize coaches, former debaters, and other qualified adults. If we do not have enough judges by time of competition, competitors may be asked to judge.

We can certify judging as service hours. Time spent judging at the Spring Break Special is also qualified to be entered as NSDA service points.

**If you are entering in the Spring Break Special, please bring a judge. We do not require it, but without judges, our tournament cannot function. Thank you!**

**Equality in Forensics is a student-run nonprofit organization that provides free and online resources to make speech and debate more accessible to students, educators, and coaches across America. We host a regularly updated blog, produce free and online resources, sponsor free coaching services, and host fantastic events.**