

The Board of the Massachusetts Speech & Debate League invites you to

**The Seventeenth Annual MSDL All-Novice
Speech and Debate Meet and Judge Training
Saturday, October 22, 2022
at Catholic Memorial
235 Baker Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132**

While this Event will be run by the MSDL Board, it is not a qualifying tournament for States

The purpose of the MSDL All-Novice Speech and Debate Meet is to give new speech competitors a chance to compete in a less intimidating, educational environment prior to the start of the regular MSDL season.

Please note that Catholic Memorial and the MSDL currently have a mask-optional policy. This is subject to change should guidance from state authorities or from Catholic Memorial administration change. Judges will be instructed that wearing of a mask should have no bearing on comments and scores.

For the purposes of this tournament, a novice competitor is defined as any student who has not competed in high school forensics in a previous school year. A student who competes in two or fewer high school tournaments while in middle school retains novice status; but if a student competes in more than two high school tournaments, that student cannot be considered a novice. This tournament is essentially for first-year high school forensic students; those returning high school forensics students, who may be eligible for novice extemp or novice debate should not plan attend this tournament.

Students with 2 or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge; however, each school with participating students **must have at least one adult in attendance**. Extra judges are always welcome and will receive assignments.

We plan to offer a **judge training** session (individual events only, not debate or Congress) from 9:30 until noon, provided that we have a minimum of 10 people registered to attend. The session will provide new and returning judges with all that they need to know about running a round, event rules, criteria for judging, and writing constructive ballots. The event will feature live demonstrations by MSDL student volunteers. We encourage you to bring prospective parent judges to the training sessions while your experienced students cover the judging requirements for the novice tournament. On the last page of this invitation please see the flyer on the judge training that can be distributed to interested parents. If you have parent or other adult judges who would like to attend the training, but you are having trouble satisfying your judge requirement – please e-mail Joyce Albert at jeba78@verizon.net; we can probably provide you with student judges from another school so that your parent judges can attend the training. Participants in the training session must be registered online with your tournament entry so that we will have enough seats and printed materials for all.

We look forward to seeing you on October 22nd!

Sincerely,
The MSDL Board

Greg Cunningham (President)	Joyce Albert (Chair of Speech)	Scott Caron	Tammie Ruda
Lisa Honeyman (VP/Secretary)	Joe Bowden (Chair of Congress)	Sue Hennessey	Chris Sheldon
Jim Honeyman (Treasurer)	Josh Cohen (Chair of Debate)	Sheryl Kaczmarek	Paul Wexler

General Information

Because the purpose of the All-Novice event is entirely educational, we will be holding three rounds of friendly competition followed by an exhibition round in speech events by varsity students. The three rounds will simulate regular competition, but there will be no final round. Novices who compete will receive their ballots at the end of the tournament so that they can use the feedback as they work to improve their performances for future tournaments.

Standard MSDL events will be offered. If there are 6 or fewer entries in any event, we may combine it with a similar event. Please visit www.msdl.org for descriptions and rules for each event.

Competitors in memorized events (OO, DEC, DP, DUO, INFO) will not be penalized for using manuscripts at this tournament.

Delicious breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages will be sold throughout the day.

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette must be abided by at all times.

The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion. We expect all members of our community to treat one another with respect. Should you have any issues, please come to the TAB room and ask to speak with our equity officer.

Event Specific Information

- **CONGRESS.** Congress will run as a special event, separate from the schedule for the rest of the day. When the individual events begin their first round, there will be a brief exhibition round in Congress. Here, the novices will watch varsity competitors demonstrate how a Congress chamber operates. Then there will be some instruction time followed by a practice round in which the novices will participate. After lunch there will be a training session on writing legislation.
- **GROUP DISCUSSION.** The topic area for group discussion will be: Immigration with focus areas on relocation and border policy.
- **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.** Each of the three rounds of Extemp will focus on one of these areas: National, International, and Economic news.
- **RADIO.** Copy will come from wire services and/or newspapers.
- **BIG QUESTIONS.**
 - **Resolved: Humans are primarily driven by self-interest.**
- **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS.** We will use the Modest Novice topic.
 - **Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.**
- **PUBLIC FORUM.** We will use the Massachusetts Novice topic.
 - **Resolved: The United States should institute term limits on its Supreme Court Justices.**

Judging

You are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof for speech events and Congress. For Debate, you are required to bring one judge for every two entries or fraction thereof. Judges should be available to judge all time slots. There will be a \$50 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges. Students with two or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge, as are qualified adults. Extra judges are always welcome. If we have enough judges, we will attempt to use two judges in each round instead of the usual one, so please bring extras if you have them.

*Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Wednesday, October 19 at 5:00 pm. **If you have drops after registration closes, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring.** If you register EXTRA judges, we are going to be depending upon them to come. You cannot drop them after the registration deadline.*

We will be holding a speech Judge Training Session during the tournament. The judge training will cover only individual events, not debate or Congress. Since experienced students are encouraged to judge this tournament, this is an excellent opportunity for you to bring parents who are interested in judging but would benefit from training before they take on any rounds. Individuals registered for Judge Training may not be registered as judges for this tournament.

Individuals interested in learning to judge debate may attend this tournament and shadow judges in order to learn the judging process. These individuals should not be registered as judges, but you should notify the Tab Room during registration if you have individuals in need of a debate training partner.

Registration Information

- The registration fee is \$7 per student. The cost for a Duo Interpretation entry or a PFD team is therefore \$14.
- Register on-line at www.tabroom.com beginning on September 26, 2022. If you are having trouble with the online registration system, send an e-mail to Joyce Albert at jeba78@verizon.net.
- **Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

Drops

- Drops may be made online until Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM; drops should be e-mailed to Joyce Albert (jeba78@verizon.net) once registration closes.
- All changes to entries made after October 20 will incur a \$5 penalty fee in addition to the \$7 registration fee.
- Drops that occur after 8:00 pm on Friday should be called in to 508-397-5143 on Saturday morning between 7:00-8:00 am.

SATURDAY Morning Check-in

- **Please text (preferred) or call 508-397-5143 to check in between 7:00-8:00 am on Saturday morning.** Even if you have no drops, please text or call so we can begin to re-panel rounds at 8:00 am (if necessary) and start the tournament on time. MSDL rules permit a \$25 penalty fee assigned to schools that fail to check-in during the morning call-in period. Please identify your school when texting.

Tentative Schedule

7:00-8:00	Check-in Calls/Texts (<i>Please text or call 508-397-5143</i>)
8:15-8:45	Registration
8:30	Judge Meeting
9:00	General Opening Meeting
9:30-12:00	Judge Training Session (speech events only, not for debate)
9:30-1:00	Speech Rounds & Congress Sessions
9:30-3:00	Debate Rounds (lunch during free flight)
2:00	Speech Exhibitions, Congress Bill Writing Session, and Debate Exhibition (time permitting)
3:00	Estimated Departure Time

Speech Judge Training Session

New to judging forensics?
Looking for a refresher course?

Saturday, October 22, 2022
9:30am - Noon
at Catholic Memorial in West Roxbury, MA

At this session participants will learn:

- How to run a round
- The rules for MSDL speech events
- The criteria for judging the various events
- How to give time signals
- How to rank students and what “quality points” are
- How to write a constructive ballot

The event will feature live demonstrations by MSDL student volunteers.

Massachusetts students work hard to do their best at competitions and we know our judges want to do their best too. While everyone likes to win, this activity is as wonderful as it is because of the learning opportunity it provides for kids. Learn to help all of our students become better public speakers by attending this free judge training session.