

## The U Invitational Hosted by University Schools



**Coaches and Students,**

You are invited to our annual Speech and Debate Tournament, “The U Invitational,” hosted by University Schools, on Feb. 4 2023. We are excited to be able to provide schools with the opportunity to compete this weekend. We will be providing in person rounds of all events Saturday, Feb. 4. We will also be offering an asynchronous category for all interpretation events and extemporaneous speaking, to be judged throughout the week leading up.

- <http://universityvarsity.tabroom.com>
- We are a NIETOC bid tournament! Biids will be based on the # of entries in each event. See more: <http://nietoc.com/>
- **Pre-registration of entries is due Thursday, Feb 2, 2023**
- **Video links for asynchronous events: due Monday, Jan 30th, by 7:00 pm MST**
- Judges for live events can be updated by Friday, Feb 4th, 7:00pm MST
- Initial entry limit of 4 students per event, All events will start with waitlist to manage size of tournament. We anticipate clearing waitlists very quickly as we build up a judges pool
- A coach is responsible for being on sight at all times
- Congress legislation will be accepted up until 1 week prior to the tournament. Legislation posted 1 week out.
- Debate will be using Febuary topics for
- **Entry fees are \$11 per single entry, partnered events \$22: live & asynchronous**

Debate & Extemp - LIVE	IEs - LIVE	IEs/Extemp - Asynchronous
<i>debaters/extempers may only single enter 1 live event. Theyare are also are permitted to enter are Asynchronous IEs;</i>	<i>No limitation on Live IE entries, missing/late to round will result in a forfeit for the round. Coaches' discretion on what kids can handle.</i>	<i>No limitations. May enter Live OO and asynchronous OO for example.</i>
Varsity-Public Forum	Drama	Drama
Varsity-Lincoln Douglas	Humor	Humor
Varisty-Policy	POI	POI
Combined Extemp	Duo	Duo
Congress	OO	OO
	Informative	Informative
	Poetry (CHSAA rules)	Poetry (CHSAA rules)
		Combined Extemp-(1 video, questions sent out 1 week prior)

**PF: Resolved: In the United States, right-to-work laws do more harm than good.**

**LD: Resolved: Justice requires open borders for human migration.**

**CX: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and cybersecurity.**

We reserve the right to collapse divisions or events based on entry #s; we will decide these at least one week prior to the tournament.

**Judging:** We are hoping to provide a diverse judging pool of former competitors, community members, and parents. Our goal is to increase the community involvement with the activity, so we appreciate you acknowledging that lay judges may be used for debate to help train new judges to become familiar with the activity. **Teams should cover 4 rounds per 4 debate entries, 5 rounds per 10 Async Entries, 7 rounds per 10 IE entries** (basically 1 full-time judge for 4 debate/10 Async/IE entries). As we recruit more judges, we will lower the requirements and release judges from the tournament.

Coaches not wishing to judge or unable to cover their judge obligations will be asked to pay an additional \$22 judging fee.

We are happy to announce this year we will be paying college students 11\$ per round! If you have formers that you are using to cover a judging obligation, we will pay them! We hope to expand this to all judges in the future, but to see how it impacts finances, this year we will limit it to students in college.

**Schedule:** To try and circumvent single entries for debate/extemp we've added a 4th round! University Schools drew up a schedule that would allow us to provide the most rounds for students while finishing at a reasonable time. We are hoping for a single-flight debate.

Navy: Humor, Oratory, Poetry, POI

White: Info, Drama, Duo

<u>Time (all in MST)</u>	<u>Interp Schedule</u>	<u>Debate/Extemp</u>
7:00 am-7:30 am	Registration/Judge Check-In (If judging Round 1)	
7:30 am-7:45 am	Judge Training (for any judge that wants to come by)	
8:00 am-9:15 am	Navy 1	
9:30 am-10:45 am	White 1	Round 1
11:00 am-12:15 pm	Navy 2	Round 2
12:30 pm-1:45 pm	White 2	Round 3
2:00 pm-3:15 pm	Navy 3	Round 4
3:30 pm-4:45 pm	White 3	Finals
5:00 pm-6:00 pm	Finals ALL Interp	

\*The schedule is flexible and may run earlier than planned. We will push up rounds if we are able to sign up enough judges

<u>Time (all in MST)</u>	<u>Async</u>
Tuesday, Jan 31st - Wednesday, Feb 1st at 9pm	Rounds 1-3
Thursday Feb 2nd at 9pm	Semi Finals (all events over 21 entries)
Friday Feb 3rd at 6 pm - Saturday, Feb 4th	Finals (in events that necessitate finals based on entries)

**Entries:** Each school may enter a maximum of 6 entries in each event. You may add additional entries to the waitlist and if room permits, I will add entries as possible. Entries will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will occur online a <http://universityvarsity.tabroom.com>

**Entry Fees:** Please make checks payable to University Schools. Mailing address: 6525 w 18<sup>th</sup> Street Greeley CO 80634 Thank you!

## **Equity Statement:**

University Schools is committed to further developing equity, diversity, and inclusion in this activity. To that end, we have tried to remove some of the economic barriers that prevent teams from competing at tournaments. Below are recent steps we have taken to increase access and affordability.

1. The 2021 University Meet will not be charging any drop fees for 1st year programs.
2. Any school with a Free or Reduced Lunch rate of 60% or more is entitled to a discount on their entry fees. Please email us directly to receive the discount. (luribe@universitieschools.com)

In addition to working towards affordability, we want to create a competitive environment that welcomes all narratives and combats sexist, classist, and racist microaggressions that have resulted in varying student experiences in this activity. Below are recent steps we have taken to address inclusiveness:

1. An anti-bias virtual judge training is required for all judges before ballots are released to them.

We want to encourage coaches to be proactive in the event an inappropriate comment is made on the ballot that they believe was part of the judge's decision.

1. We will make ballots available to coaches regularly. We want to encourage coaches to review ballots and notify the tournament directors of any problematic ballots.
2. If a problematic ballot is discovered in rounds, an additional judge will adjudicate that round. If the judge's rank would have resulted in that student's higher rank, they will receive the higher rank. This may result in two 1<sup>st</sup> places or 2<sup>nd</sup> places; we are fine with that. In our rounds, only the student whose ballot was challenged will have the potential to receive a different rank.
3. We will have an equity officer available to teams throughout the competition.

Finally, we realize these steps that we have committed to are only part of a larger conversation on the issues of equity and diversity in our activity. Any suggested updates to our equity statement are welcome to be shared.