

THE YALE DEBATE ASSOCIATION

2023 Rollin G. Osterweis Tournament Invitation

The Yale Debate Association is pleased to invite the Connecticut debate community to attend the 41st annual Rollin G. Osterweis debate tournament on Sunday, April 16, 2023. We are very excited to be hosting the tournament in-person for the first time since 2019; all events will take place on Yale's campus in New Haven, CT.

The Tournament

The Osterweis is a free tournament for Connecticut high school students to experience the collegiate style of parliamentary debate. In addition to excellent competition, students will enjoy judging and feedback from current members of the YDA, as well as the opportunity to spend time on Yale's campus. The tournament is named after Rollin G. Osterweis, the first coach of the YDA and a legendary figure in the debate community; you can read more about him at osterweisyale.tabroom.com.

The tournament features both a novice and a varsity division:

- **Novice** participants will have the opportunity to learn more about parliamentary debate by watching a demonstration round featuring some of the YDA's top debaters. Afterward, teams will debate three preliminary rounds, before elimination rounds begin.
 - Debaters in the novice division must be in their first year of high school debate, and may not be above sophomore year.
- **Varsity** teams will debate four preliminary rounds, before elimination rounds begin.

Debates will focus on issues familiar to the average student, including American and international politics, ethics, and justice. The Osterweis will follow the American Parliamentary Debate Association format; information about the format can be found at osterweisyale.tabroom.com. YDA debaters will judge each round and provide feedback to each debater, and awards will be given to the top speakers and teams in each division.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 am on Sunday, April 16, and all teams must have arrived by 9:00 am; the full schedule is available at osterweisyale.tabroom.com. All participants will be provided with a free breakfast and lunch, though everyone should bring a water bottle (refill stations are located around campus).

Registration

Registration for the tournament takes place here, on Tabroom.com. The size of the tournament is limited by our pool of college debaters who will act as judges. Tabroom will automatically add all teams to the waitlist when they are registered. We will initially admit 3 teams per school, but we encourage you to register up to 6 teams per school, as we will admit additional teams until we reach capacity. We strongly encourage schools to register at least one novice team for every two varsity teams; we believe it is important to give younger debaters a chance to participate. Please note the registration schedule:

- Registration opens on March 13 at 8:00 am
- 3 teams per school will be admitted beginning on March 20
- Additional teams per school will be admitted beginning on March 27 (pending capacity)

- Final teams will be admitted by April 3
 - You may still make name changes, drops, etc. after this date, but we ask that you minimize this as much as possible.

The Yale University [visitors policy](#) requires that all participants (including debaters and chaperones) be up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, as [defined](#) by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Full details on the vaccination requirement can be found at osterweisyale.tabroom.com; we are happy to answer any questions you may have, but we ask that you read that page thoroughly first.

Yale University also requires that certain forms be on record prior to the beginning of the tournament:

- Each **debater** must submit a waiver signed by a parent/guardian.
- The **primary chaperone** from each school must submit a supervision agreement. All debaters must be accompanied by a chaperone.
- **Anyone with a dietary restriction** must submit the dietary restrictions form.

These forms will be posted before registration opens, and are due one week before the tournament, April 9, 2023 at 11:59 pm EDT. We will be tracking submission of these forms, and anyone who has not submitted the forms by the deadline will not be allowed to compete.

Questions

We look forward to welcoming you to Yale's campus in April! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at ydatournaments+osterweis@gmail.com; you can generally expect a response within 48 hours.

Warmly,

Araya Miller, Chris Sylvester, Hugo Wang, and Josh Leffler
Tournament Directors