

	<p><b>53rd Marshall University John Marshall Speech and Debate Tournament</b></p> <p><b>Huntington WV 21-22 February 2025</b></p>
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18 December 2024

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 53rd annual Marshall University John Marshall Speech and Debate Tournament to be held on Friday, 21 February 2025, and Saturday, 22 February 2025, at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia. We submit speech qualifications to both TOC and NIETOC.

#### EVENTS AND ENTRIES

This year we will offer competition in 18 different speech and debate events. The events are:

<b>Speech Section A</b>	<b>Speech Section B</b>	<b>Debate</b>
Declamation Duo Interpretation Humorous Interpretation Improv/Pantomime Duo Original Oratory Poetry Interpretation Program Oral Interpretation	Broadcasting Dramatic Interpretation Extemporaneous Speaking Informative Speaking Impromptu Speaking Prose Interpretation Storytelling	Lincoln-Douglas Debate Big Questions Debate Public Forum Debate Congressional Debate

#### STUDENT ENTRIES

A school may have unlimited student entries in each event. Students may enter up to seven events subject to the following:

- Any student may enter Congressional Debate, which will be held Friday morning before the remainder of the tournament starts.
- No student may enter both Broadcasting and Extemporaneous Speaking.
- A student may enter only ONE of the following: Big Questions Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln Douglas Debate.

- A student competing only in speech events may enter up to three events in Section A.
- A student competing only in speech events may enter up to three events in Section B.
- A student competing in Big Questions Debate, Public Forum Debate, or Lincoln-Douglas Debate may compete in up to two Speech Section B events.

## **JUDGING ENTRIES**

One judge is owed for each eight (8) speech entries. One judge is owed for each two (2) debate entries.

All judges must be knowledgeable of tournament and event rules. All debate judges must be qualified to judge at least two of the following debate events: Big Questions Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

All judges must be available to judge until the ballots for the last final round have been distributed.

## **REGISTRATION**

You may register for this tournament at <http://mujm.tabroom.com>.

The registration deadline is Tuesday, 18 February 2025, at 5:00 PM, but you are encouraged to register earlier so we can better prepare. You may make changes through Thursday, 20 February 2025, at 12:00 PM without any nuisance fees applying.

## **DEADLINES**

Congressional debate bills/resolution submission: Wednesday, 12 February, at 12:00 PM. (Each school may submit two primary bills and an unlimited number of secondary bills. A docket and all bills/resolutions received will be posted online by 5:00 PM.)

Student entries: Tuesday, 18 February at 5:00 PM

Judge entries: Tuesday, 18 February, at 5:00 PM

Fees & obligations freeze: Thursday, 20 February, at 12:00 PM

Online drops & name changes: Thursday, 20 February, at 12:00 PM

Nuisance fees apply after Thursday, 20 February, at 12:00 PM

## **FEES**

### **ENTRY FEES**

Hospitality:	\$5.00 per student
Speech individual events:	\$8.00 per entry
Speech duo events:	\$12.00 per team
Congressional debate:	\$12.00 per entry
Lincoln-Douglas Debate:	\$12.00 per entry

Big Questions Debate:	\$12.00 per entry
Public Forum Debate:	\$18.00 per team

### **JUDGING FEES**

Uncovered speech entries:	\$12.00 per entry
Uncovered debate entries:	\$50.00 per entry

### **STUDENT ADD/DROP FEES**

Thursday, 20 February (after 12:00 PM)	\$8.00 + entry fee
Friday, 21 February (before 9:00 AM)	\$25.00 + entry fee
Friday, 21 February (after 9:00 AM)	\$50.00 + entry fee

### **JUDGE DROP FEES**

Judge Drop for Preliminary Rounds	\$50.00
Judge Drop for Elimination Rounds	\$150.00

To avoid high drop fees on the day of the tournament, call or text Dennis Taylor (+1 304.541.0332) with any drops no later than 9:00 AM.

### **INVOICE/PAYMENT**

You can print your invoice through [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com). Make checks payable to Marshall University Speech and Debate. Cash is also accepted.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### **Friday, 21 February**

8:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Congressional Debate
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 1
1:00 PM – 2:20 PM	Speech Round 1, Section A
1:50 PM	Extemp Draw
2:25 PM – 3:45 PM	Speech Round 1, Section B
2:55 PM – 3:55 PM	BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 2
3:50 PM – 5:10 PM	Speech Round 2, Section A
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 3
5:00 PM	Extemp Draw
5:15 PM	Broadcasting Prep
5:30 PM – 6:50 PM	Speech Round 2, Section B

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 4

### **Saturday, 22 February**

8:15 AM – 9:15 AM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 5

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM      Speech Round 3, Section A

9:25 AM                  Extemp Draw/Broadcasting Prep

9:55 AM – 11:15 AM      Speech Round 3, Section B

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Round 6

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Elims 1

12:00 PM – 1:20 PM      Speech Elims 1

12:55 PM                  Extemp Draw/Broadcasting Prep

1:25 PM – 2:45 PM      Speech Elims 2

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Elims 2

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM      Speech Elims 3

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM      BQ/LD/PF Debate Elims 3

5:15 PM                  Awards

## **SPEECH EVENTS**

### **DIVISIONS**

Speech events may be divided into novice and varsity divisions or a novice final round may be held if there are at least 12 novice competitors.

### **EVENT RULES**

The tournament follows National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) high school rules for the following events: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, and Program Oral Interpretation.

The tournament follows National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) rules for the following events: Prose Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), Poetry Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), and Declamation (Oratorical Declamation). Declamation is limited to middle school students, freshmen, and sophomores. See <http://www.ncfl.org/competition-events>.

The tournament rules for other events are as follows:

**Broadcasting** – The tournament follows West Virginia Speech and Debate Association (WVSDA) rules (see <http://wvsda.org>) for this event, except that all rounds are TV news. Contestants are judged not only on what is heard, but also how it is presented. Judge eye contact, facial expression, and body movement.

- Round 1 (prepared TV news): No preparation time; contestants report to round. Contestants will prepare a news script using up-to-date material. An introduction, sign-off, and brief commercial (15 seconds suggested length) must be included in the broadcast. Contestants must give a copy of the script to the judge and present all copy as it appears in the script. Maximum time limit: 3 minutes with 30 second grace period both above and below the time limit.
- Round 2 (verbatim TV news): 15 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants are given a news script and must deliver it verbatim with the following exceptions: An introduction and sign-off are required, and transitions may be used. There is no time limit.
- Round 3, semi-finals, finals (cut TV news): 30 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants must edit the copy given to them and include an introduction, impromptu commercial, and sign-off within a five-minute time frame. During the round, contestants may use a stopwatch as judges will not give time signals. Maximum time limit: 5 minutes with no grace period.

**Improvitational/Pantomime Duo** – Competitors enter in pairs, are given the same topic, and must perform a scene based on that topic. Competitors are limited to two characters and may include a brief introduction. Round 2 will be pantomime duo; the remaining rounds will be improvisational duo. The ideal improvisational/pantomime duo tells a story that has an initial situation with a rising conflict and ends with resolution. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted, but a table and/or chair may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and may not be used. Criteria for judging include clarity of scene, story development, consistent characterization, creativity, and comedic or dramatic timing. Maximum prep time: 3 minutes; maximum presentation time: 6 minutes with 30 second grace period. The judge must provide contestants with time signals.

**Storytelling** – Each competitor will present a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend which must be retold without props. A book or script may be used but is not required. The contestant must not materially change the content of the story. Competitors may stand, sit in a chair, sit on the floor and/or use a limited amount of room for movement. Original introductory remarks are permitted. Maximum time limit: 10 minutes with 30 second grace period.

## **TIMING AND TIME LIMITS**

With the exception of extemporaneous speaking and extemporaneous interpretation (7 minutes with 30 second grace period), impromptu speaking (7 minutes with 30 second grace period for both prep and speaking), and broadcasting (time limits vary by round), the maximum time limit per event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. **There is no minimum time for any event at this tournament.**

Judges must time all events. Judges, however, are required to give contestants time signals only in extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, and improvisational/pantomime duo.

## **ROUNDS**

There will be 3 preliminary rounds and either one or two elimination rounds for each speech event unless the event has fewer than 10 contestants in which case there will be no elimination rounds. If a speech event has 25 or more contestants/teams, the event will break to two or three sections of semi-finals and then to finals. If the speech event has 10 to 24 contestants/teams, the event will break only to finals. Preliminary rounds will have at least one judge and elimination rounds will have at least three judges.

## **BREAKING TIES**

The following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: total ranks, reciprocal fractions, total speaker points. If a tie remains, all tied contestants advance.

The following is the order for determining placement in elimination rounds: total ranks, judges' preference, total speaker points, highest seed after preliminary rounds.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be provided to semifinalists and finalists for all speech events that break to semifinals then finals. Awards will be provided to finalists for all speech events that break to finals. For speech events that do not break to finals, awards will be given to no more than half of the contestants. For any event that does not have a novice division and more than one novice, a top novice award will also be given.

# **DEBATE EVENTS**

## **RULES**

The tournament follows NSDA high school rules except as follows:

**Congressional Debate** – To promote efficiency: (1) Each school may enter a maximum of six students. (Additional students may be wait-listed and will be added if we have multiple Houses.) (2) Each school may designate up to two students as potential presiding officers; this should be done by emailing the tournament director. (3) Tournament hosts will randomly select the two presiding officers for each House – one for Session 1 and one for Session 2 – from among the schools' designees. (4) Each school may submit two primary bills/resolutions and any number of secondary bills/resolutions. (5) Tournament hosts will establish a docket, which will control the order in which bills/resolutions may be taken up. Primary bills/resolutions will appear in front of secondary bills/resolutions on the docket. (The Senate/House may table consideration of a bill/resolution but may not reorder the docket.)

## **DIVISIONS**

Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate events may be divided into varsity, junior varsity, and/or novice divisions if there would be at least 12 teams in each division.

## **TOPICS**

**The Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate topics will be the NSDA topics for March 2025, NOT February 2025.**

## **ROUNDS**

For Big Questions, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate, there will be 6 preliminary rounds and up to 3 elimination rounds.

Preliminary rounds will have at least 1 judge, and elimination rounds will have at least the 3 judges.

## **PAIRINGS**

Unless a round-robin format is being used, students from the same school will not debate one another in preliminary rounds. Students from the same school, however, may debate one another in elimination rounds. In such a case, the coach will make the decision whether the two competitors or teams debate or whether one competitor or team advances automatically.

Unless a round-robin format is used, Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2 will be preset and later preliminary rounds will be power matched. Elimination round pairings may be adjusted to prevent students from the same school from hitting one another.

## **BREAKING TIES**

Ideally, all teams with records of 4-2 or better will break to elimination rounds. Otherwise, the following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: win-loss record, head-to-head outcome, speaker points except best and worst, speaker points, judge variance, and coin flip. The following is the order for determining placement in elimination rounds: win/loss record in round.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be given to the top six Congressional debaters in each House and to the best presiding officer.

Awards will be given to all students who advance to elimination rounds. For events that do not break to finals (e.g., operate using a round-robin format), awards will be given to the top two debaters or debate teams.

Awards will be given to the six best speakers across debate events based on speaker points in preliminary rounds. Ties will be broken based on speaker points except best and worst, head-to-head score, and winloss record.

For any event that does not have a novice division, a top novice award will also be given if two or more novices are entered.

## **JUDGING**

Judges are generally expected to use online speech and debate ballots.

A judge may seek clarification concerning whether a rule violation has occurred from tournament hosts. But it will be the responsibility of the judge, not tournament hosts, to determine the appropriate penalty for a rule violation unless tournament hosts disqualify the competitor.

Speech and debate judges may not disclose results or reasons for decision. This is done to ensure the tournament runs on time.

### NOVICE, JUNIOR VARSITY, VARSITY STATUS

A novice student is someone in their first year of high school competition OR in middle school regardless of whether they have finished the event or competed in middle school.

A junior varsity student is someone in their second year of high school competition.

A varsity student is not a novice or junior varsity student.

### SWEEPSTAKES

#### SCORING SYSTEM

If you want information about the sweepstakes scoring system used, please contact the tournament director.

#### INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES

The three students who earn the most sweepstakes points will receive awards. To be eligible for individual sweepstakes, a student must enter at least three events.

#### TEAM SWEEPSTAKES

The six schools that earn the most sweepstakes points across all events will receive awards. Only a school's top three entries in an event count toward team sweepstakes.

Depending on the size of the tournament, separate team sweepstakes awards may be given in speech and debate, among middle schools, and among schools with small entries.

#### TRAVELING TROPHY

The tournament presents a traveling trophy to the team with the highest number of sweepstakes points over the years. Once a school wins, its total points go to zero. The top ten schools going into the tournament are: (1) Huntington High School – 1,281 points; (2) John Marshall High School – 1,194.5 points; (3) Fairmont Senior High School – 1,038.5 points; (4) Capital High School – 958.5 points; (5) Mount Vernon High School (OH) – 947 points; (6) George Washington High School – 909 points; (7) Rowan County Senior High School (KY) – 891 points; (8) Point Pleasant Jr./Sr. High School – 848.5 points; (9) Braxton County High School – 791.5 points; (10) Preston High School – 754 points. A team must be present to win.



## LODGING

**DoubleTree Hotel (Hilton)** – 1001 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701 +1 304-525-1001

- 0.7 miles west of campus
- Swimming Pool
- Breakfast is an Additional Charge

**Delta Hotel (Marriott)** – 800 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701 +1 304-523-8880

- Renovated
- 0.9 miles from campus
- Swimming pool

**Hampton Inn** – 77 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, West Virginia, 25701 +1 304-523-8001

- 2.6 miles from campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Free Parking
- Swimming Pool

**Comfort Inn** – 3094 16th Street Road Huntington, WV 25701 +1 304-523-4242 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

- 2.6 miles southeast of campus <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool

**Fairfield Inn & Suites** – 536 Kinetic Drive, Huntington, WV 25701 +1 304-696-8777

- 2.6 miles from campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool

**Quality Inn** – 3090 16th Street Road, Huntington, WV 25701 +1 304-525-1410

- 2.6 miles southeast of campus <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Indoor swimming pool

## FOOD

On Saturday, we will provide lunch for tournament participants. Additionally, many food options are available close to the tournament site.

If you have any questions, please contact me. We look forward to seeing you this winter!

Sincerely,

Dennis C. Taylor  
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Marshall University  
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