

# Seattle University



## **High School Speech and Debate ONLINE Tournament Invitation Friday and Saturday January 24-25, 2025**

Version 2.0 NEW SCHEDULE

**We invite you to the Seattle University high school speech and debate tournament held online.**

**We offer LD, Public Forum, and Congressional debate and Ten Individual Events.**

**We are a TOC Tier 1 Congress Qualifier.**

**We are a TOC Gold Finals and Silver Semis Qualifier in Public Forum Debate.**

**We fully expect all our divisions of IEs to have the numbers to qualify students for the TOC and NIETOC (and we are an official NIETOC qualifying tournament).**

We will feature competition from Washington state and all over the United States.

We have a quality tabroom staff and we encourage all involved to be inclusive treating each and every participant with respect and support.

We had a good tournament last year and we are ready to do even better with more support/help for participants, more judging for elims, and better use of tabroom.com

Jim Hanson, Tournament Host  
Seattle U Speech & Debate Director  
[hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

<http://seattleuniversity.tabroom.com>

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## Events we Offer

### DEBATE

- LD Debate, Open and Junior Division (**Jan-Feb** NSDA Topic)
- Public Forum Debate, Open and Junior Division (**Jan** NSDA Topic)
- Congress, Open Division (**Spring** WSFA Packet)

### SPEAKING

- Ed Comm
- Extemporaneous
- Impromptu\*
- Informative (Expos)
- Persuasive (Oratory)
- SPAR

*\*We will have an Open and Junior Division of Impromptu.*

### INTERPRETATION

- Dramatic
- Duo
- Humorous
- Programmed Oral Interp

*Mark novices in your entry. Top novices will be celebrated.  
Yes, students can double-enter in IEs.*

## Judging you need

Schools are required to provide:

- one judge for every **3** LDers
- one judge for every **3** Public Forum teams
- one judge for every **5** Congress entries
- one judge for every **5** IE entries (*entries, not students—one student doing two events counts as two entries; dual interp pair is counted as one entry*)

**Please bring qualified judges. If you can't, then hire our judges. We need quality judges so students get excellent feedback and adjudication.**

**Judges must be registered by Tuesday January 23 at 8:00pm.**

After that hired judging fees apply as we need to hire and thus pay judges at that point.

## Registration

Registration is through the website <http://seattleuniversity.tabroom.com>.

The deadline for registration including for judges is **Tuesday, January 21 at 8:00PM.**

**Fees are set on that day. Drops, Late Judges provided, etc. after that date will not be deducted from the entry fee.** We will email you your school's fees—ignore any fee notices on tabroom.com.

Changes in registration must be made on the website by **Thursday, January 23 at 8:00 PM.**

After that, Email Jim Hanson drops ASAP WHEN YOU KNOW: [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

**AVOID CHANGES/DROPS AT THE LAST MINUTE:** Late changes in competitors and judges really hurt our ability to stay on schedule. The earlier you can make changes for your entries, the better the chances are for an ON-TIME tournament.

## Our Online Policies

- Make sure that your students have active Tabroom accounts well ahead of the tournament. Otherwise, they won't be able to compete.
- Students and Judges should have Cameras on. This is a safeguard against outside assistance, and it is an important accessibility feature. Cameras also help maintain the social atmosphere of speech and debate. That said, if there is a significant reason you need the camera off, you are not required to have the camera on.
- **MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS ARE READY TO GO. They need a decent webcam, working microphone and speakers, and MOST IMPORTANT, reliable internet connection.**
- **[Test your Internet Connection \(Click here\). Should be 10mb+download, 5mb+upload.](#)**

## Participants MUST have official adult supervision

We welcome adult supervised teams to our tournament. WSFA/WIAA regulations prohibit unsupervised students from attending the tournament. This means that independent students who are not part of a program may not attend tournaments in Washington State. If you do not have a program/school official "supervising" you during the tournament, you will be dismissed from the tournament without refund. Concerns? Contact Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

## Be Inclusive

At all times, treat each other with courtesy and respect. Every person. Every room. We want a fun, positive, and educational environment.

### **Mistreatment happens?**

If you are mistreated or you witness mistreatment—we encourage you to speak up against that if you feel safe doing so. Please report such events to Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

If you are a coach or judge, you are required to speak against and to try to stop mistreatment and report it to Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

### **Inclusive Pronouns**

We encourage students, judges, and coaches to refer to each other by name or by speaker position; you can use "they" and "their" as well. Please DO NOT ASSUME someone else's gender.

### **Students and Judges with Disabilities**

Have a need? Please contact Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu) We want you to participate!

## If you have an issue during the tournament . . .

We will actively seek to address your questions and concerns as soon as possible.

We will have SEVERAL staff ready to speak with you in multiple breakout rooms.

## LD and Public Forum Debate Rules-Topics-Times

- Students cannot double enter in PF, LD, Congress debate.
- **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE:** We offer Junior and Open divisions of LD. Rounds will follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format and have 4 minutes of prep time per competitor. **We will be using the January/February topic as published on the NSDA website.** <https://www.speechanddebate.org/topics/>
- **PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE:** We offer Junior and Open divisions of Public Forum. Rounds will follow standard PF time format (4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2) with 3 minutes of prep per team and teams will coin flip for pro/con or 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> speaker. **We will use the January topic as published on the NSDA website.** <https://www.speechanddebate.org/topics/>
- **Use the File Sharing Feature in the Online Debate Rooms.**
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- **Tech Problems?** Teams are allowed up to ten minutes of tech troubleshooting time. If the debate is paused for technology related reasons, that team's Tech Time begins to count down. If a team uses all of their Tech Time before the round ends, their speaking time must begin. The tech time is not to be used as prep.
- **Debate Division Definitions**
  - Junior Division** is for those students in their first or second year of competition who have not received a trophy in Open debate competition at two (2) invitational tournaments with 15 or more schools participating and have not placed first through fourth (1-4) at the WIAA State Debate Championship Tournament.
  - Open Division** is for those students who do not meet the Junior Division definition or who want the competition level of open division.

***We will advance all teams with win loss records better than 50% up to 16 teams in a division of LD and Public Forum but we won't have a partial elim if the partial elim will have only 1 debate.***

***Note: Open Public Forum as a TOC qualifier has 6 preliminary debates; all other divisions of debate have 5 prelims.***

## Congressional Debate Rules-Packet

We offer Open division for Congressional Debate.

We will have no more than 20 students per chamber.

**Students will use the Spring WSFA congressional packet.** This can be found on our tabroom.com site and the Forensics page of WIAA. Please be sure your Congressional debaters have their own copies of the legislation.

***Based on the preliminary rounds, we will then break up to 20 students to Super Session.***

We will follow the docket setting method suggested by the WSFA committee. Separate Legislation for Super Congress is included in the WSFA packet and will ONLY be used for Super Congress. Any contestant may sponsor such an item in the event an author is not present in the chamber.

## Individual Events Rules-Times

**Each student may DOUBLE ENTER.**

**Students can do both Individual Events and Debate.**

- Students present LIVE Online ("synchronous").
- All Events are in Open Division (mark novices in registration for separate awards).

**EDITORIAL COMMENTARY:** The commentary takes a position on an issue of public concern as if the speaker were an editorialist attempting to influence the audience toward their point of view. The speaker is seated delivering the speech as if to a television camera. TIME LIMIT: 1:45-2:00 minutes EXACTLY (NO grace period).

**EXTEMPORANEOUS:** Thirty minutes before speaking time, each speaker will select a topic from a choice of three—**distributed on a Google Doc 30 minutes before speaking.** Questions will be based on current events. Speaker will be expected to organize and analyze material relevant to the subject area and answer the chosen question. Time: seven minutes (7) maximum, with thirty seconds (30) grace.

**IMPROMPTU:** Student will be given a choice of three topics **distributed in round through the chat feature.** The student will choose a topic and have six minutes to prepare and speak on the chosen topic. Time may be used in any manner the speaker chooses (example-2 minutes prep and 4 speaking or 4 minutes prep and 2 minutes speaking). Time: six minutes (6) maximum, with thirty seconds (30) grace. Judges are required to provide time signals while students are preparing and while they are speaking.

**Junior and Open Divisions.**

**INFORMATIVE (EXPOS):** A speech that is designed to be informative in nature. Visual aids and note cards are permitted, but are not required. Time: ten minutes (10) maximum, with thirty seconds (30) grace.

**PERSUASIVE (ORATORY):** An original speech designed to persuade—that is, to change or reinforce an existing belief, to eulogize, to cause agreement with a speaker's position, or to motivate to action. This is a memorized event. Time: ten minutes (10) maximum, with a 30 second grace period.

**SPAR:** Each spar panel consists of approximately eight competitors. The debaters will be assigned affirmative or negative until all debaters are assigned to a side by the judge prior to the start of the round. The speakers will have one minute before speaking to prep. The first affirmative speaker will give a two-minute speech in favor of the resolution; immediately after that speech, the first negative speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive. Following the opening statements, there will be a five-minute open cross-examination. The pair should question each other and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience, other competitors, and even the judge. Two rebuttal speeches of the affirmative and negative respectively (2 minutes each) complete the round. Judges should time and provide timing signals for the competitors. **Speaking Times: Aff-2; Neg-2; CX-3; Aff-2; Neg-2.**

If an odd number of students show up for the round, one student may give a repeat (unscored) additional performance. Answers by debaters to questions from the audience during the open CX period should be used in the scoring of the competitors who are actually debating, but should not be considered as relevant in the scoring of those who are merely asking questions, particularly since some students may be double-entered and will not have the opportunity to participate in the questioning process.

**DRAMATIC INTERP:** A cutting from a published play, prose, poetry, TV, or radio script, which is serious in nature. The presentation is memorized but given without props or costumes. Time: ten (10) minutes maximum with 30 second grace period.

**DUAL INTERP:** A cutting from a published play, prose, poetry, TV, or radio script, which may be either humorous or serious in nature. The selection must be memorized but given without props or costumes. Time: ten minutes (10) maximum with a 30 second grace period.

**HUMOROUS INTERP:** A cutting from a published play, prose, poetry, TV, or radio script, which is humorous in nature. The presentation is memorized. Time: ten (10) minutes with thirty seconds (30) grace.

**PROGRAMMED ORAL INTERP (POI):** At least one cutting of prose and one cutting of poetry linked thematically. Time: ten (10) minutes maximum with thirty seconds of grace.

## Providing Judging for your Entry

### 1. Schools are required to provide:

--one judge for every **3** LDers

--one judge for every **3** Public Forum teams

--one judge for every **5** Congress entries

--one judge for every **5** IE entries (*entries, not students—one student doing two events counts as two entries; dual interp pair is counted as one entry*)

Thus, if a school entered 4 LDers and 1 PF team, they should provide two judges for LD and one judge for PF, a total of three judges. Note that a judge cannot, for example, cover for 2 LDers and one PF team—judges must be provided to cover each individual debate event.

### 2. Judges must be entered by Tuesday 8pm, January 21.

**3. Judges can cover both individual events and debate.** (Please make sure judges know which pools they are in and that they will be expected to judge in that pool.)

**4. Judges are obligated to judge the category of debate for which their team is competing.** In some cases to assist in our judging needs, we may request that a judge adjudicate a different kind of debate.

**5. Judges can judge JUST ONE type of debate. Please do NOT** enter a judge in two categories of debate!!! If you put them in both pools, it is easy to end up with them double-judging, which creates chaos while we try to get it accurate. *Note: The Tab may need to put JV debate judges into both LD-Public Forum debates even though you put a JV level judge into just one kind of debate.*

### 6. Please add judging notes in your entry:

--If this is their first time judging.

--If they are a Friday only or Saturday only judge.

--Which events and divisions are right for this judge.

--All information that we receive will help us to use judges in the best way possible.

### 7. We have judges for hire and you SHOULD use hiring to make sure we have qualified judging.

**8. Do not show up short with late and missing judges.** We will be forced to drop your competitors.

**9. Reach out for Diverse Judging.** We encourage you to actively reach out (email—call—message) judges that reflect the diversity of the community we want to be. Ask yourself—what is the racial, gender, class, and sexuality of who you are hiring to judge? Is it diverse in all respects? What can you do to make it better?

## Judges must . . .

--be 18 years of age or older, have a high school degree, and may not be enrolled in high school.

-- have a **tabroom.com** account. All ballots will be on-line. Please make sure your judges are familiar with this system.

--take this training <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>

--pickup ballots on time, start rounds on time, submit ballots on time, and be courteous and supportive.

--have judged or debated in at least 5 tournaments and posted their judging philosophies to tabroom.com to judge Open LD and Open Public Forum.

### We have judges for hire and you SHOULD use hiring to make sure we have qualified judging.

## Judges are expected to

**1. Judge ALL preliminary rounds AND at least the FIRST TWO ELIM rounds in that event.** Every round, every judge listed should be available and take ballots for those rounds.

**2. Judges are expected to be on time for their rounds & to complete their judging duties:**

**--All judges need to push "start round" to signify that they have accepted the ballot.**

--At all times before, during and after the round, **judges are expected to treat all participants equitably and with a supportive, educational mindset and behaviors.**

--**At the end of each round, judges must submit the win/loss/ranking and points for the round to tabroom.com AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BEFORE GIVING VERBAL FEEDBACK TO THE DEBATERS** (note tabroom.com will make you enter the result twice to assure it is correct). Otherwise, you make the tournament late.

--**Judge ARE EXPECTED TO type written comments into tabroom.com** so coaches can help their students improve (and for students to have a record of your comments). Judges should type what each and every student did well and what they need to improve on. **Typed Comments are required.**

**--In Open Public Forum and LD debate, ALSO give verbal feedback to the debaters with:**

1. who won
2. which of the team's arguments convinced the judge—and why the losing team's arguments did not win.
3. what each and every debater did well and what they should improve on.

DO THE FEEDBACK AFTER YOU HAVE SUBMITTED the winner and points to tabroom.com so you do not slow down the tournament.

**3. We charge fees for judges that miss rounds. We also charge judges for not completing ballot comments—be sure your judges give full feedback to the students they watch.** When judges are late or miss rounds, it undermines the entire tournament—one late round means the entire tournament is late. We'll work to be flexible with reasonable situations but for judges who do not show up to rounds consistently, we will contact coaches and if arrangements/alternatives cannot be established, we reserve the right to assess nuisance/hired judge fees.

## Judge Preferencing

Open LD and Public Forum debaters will preference judges (philosophies will be on tabroom.com).

We will use make an effort to emphasize mutuality of judge preference with less emphasis (but still important) on higher preference of the teams.

**Be sure that your judges who want to judge in Open Division submit their judging philosophies to tabroom.**



## Judging Equitably

Make a welcoming environment at the beginning of the round. Hellos. Supportive comments. Equal amount of talking with all participants. **At all times, treat students and others in the round with equity, kindness and professionalism.**

During the round, we encourage you to use supportive non-verbals. (if you don't like an argument, a kind disapproval signal can be an exception so you help the students know that)

If you see mistreatment—stop it and report it to Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

If a debater is doing something “wrong,” be KIND but clear with what they need to do.

As soon as possible at the end of the round, submit your ballot with winners/rankings/speaker points. You can return to include comments later. **We need your ballot winner/rankings/speaker points ASAP or it slows the entire tournament.**

In your feedback—be educational—you aren't there to criticize the students—they've put effort into this activity. You are there to help them to improve. SKIP “You did this bad” and instead use the language of improvement “You should \_\_\_\_\_.”

Students should not be judged on their clothing nor appearance unless their clothing/appearance undermines their speech's specific message or encourages violence, hate or disruption during the tournament.

*We are all influenced by implicit bias, or the stereotypes that unconsciously affect our decisions. When judging, our implicit biases negatively impact students who are traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised. Before writing comments or making a decision, please take a moment to reflect on any biases that may impact your decision making process.*

*Please remember that the video quality of a student's performance or speech may be impacted by lighting, internet, access to equipment, and other family members' presence in the home. To ensure a more equitable experience for our participants, please be sure your decision-making process and comments are related only to the content and quality of the presentation or speech itself.*

**ALL Judges should view this material:** <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training/>

***On that website, you will find information on culturally competent judging and a link to the NFHS and their free training, entitled "Adjudicating Speech and Debate"***

## Fees

School Fee: \$35	Debate	Individual Events	Hiring our Judges:
	PF Teams: \$30 LD Debaters: \$20 Congress Debaters: \$15	IE's: \$15/entry Dual Interp: \$20/entry SPAR Debaters: \$15	\$50 for each uncovered LD debater or PF team. \$15 for each uncovered IE, SPAR, or Congress event Judges that miss a round: Debate: \$35, IEs: \$25

**Paying Fees:** Jim Hanson will send you an invoice and provide payment information including the option to pay with credit card or pay with check a few days before the start of the tournament. ***See Fees on the last page of this invitation for more information. Do NOT use tabroom.com for fees.***

You can pay with a check or use a credit card. Jim Hanson will send you details.

If you haven't paid by the end of the tournament, we will send an invoice to your accounts payable as we want to make sure information is communicated to expedite payment.

## Paying for the Tournament

### Please pay in a timely fashion.

Jim Hanson will send your payment person and you the invoice as soon as possible.

#### 1. You will be given the option to pay with credit card or with check.

If by check—make it to Seattle University (preferably include “for Debate” on the check).

Send the check to  
Jim Hanson  
Debate—Communication Department  
Seattle University  
901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seattle WA 98122

**REMINDER:** LOOK FOR EMAIL FROM JIM HANSON FOR FEES-INVOICE.  
Do **NOT** use the fees stated on tabroom.com

#### 2. Fees will be assessed on Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00pm including for needed judge hiring.

**Any and all drops made after this point will still be charged.**

**Judges added after this deadline will not reduce your fees—you must input your judges before this deadline.**

**3. Please contact us about your drops ASAP before the start of the tournament.** Drops are the main reason tournaments get off to a slow start. Everyone benefits by communicating drops. It is easiest to make changes online at tabroom.com, until Thursday January 23 at 8:00pm. After this point, please email any drops or changes to Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

**DO NOT CALL SEATTLE U, Jim Hanson for registration adds, drops, etc. EMAIL JIM!** Jim will NOT get these messages. You MUST email Jim with changes/questions/etc.

**FOR LATE ADDS/DROPS/CHANGES:** Contact Jim Hanson at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)

**Schedule REVISED AS OF WED JAN 22****Tuesday, January 21** Registration of competitors **AND judges** due by 8:00 PM. ALL FEES SET AT THIS TIME.**Thursday, January 23** Last chance for tabroom.com drops. Changes after 8pm, contact Jim Hanson.**Friday January 24****ALL TIMES PACIFIC COAST TIME**

Rd 1 Open PF Debate 3:30-4:30pm	Rd 1 LD & JV PF Debate: 4:30 – 5:30	
Rd 2 Open PF Debate: 5:40 – 6:40	Rd 2 LD & JV PF Debate: 6:40 – 7:40	Congress 1: 4:00-6:15pm
Rd 3 Open PF Debate: 7:40 – 8:40	Rd 3 LD & JV PF Debate: 8:40 – 9:40	Congress 2: 7:00-9:15
Rd 4 Open PF Debate: 8:55 – 9:55 <i>Debate is single flighted per the above schedule.</i>	<i>Debate is single flighted per the above schedule.</i>	

**Saturday January 25**

Rd 4 LD and JV PF Debate: 9:00 – 10:00am Rd 5 Open PF Debate: 10:00 – 11:00 Rd 5 LD and JV PF Debate: 12:15 – 1:15pm Rd 6 Open PF Debate: 1:15 – 2:15  Elim 1 ALL Debate: 3:30 – 4:30 <b>ALL DEBATE JUDGES JUDGE ELIM 1 AND 2!</b> Elim 2 ALL Debate: 6:00 – 7:00 <b>ALL DEBATE JUDGES JUDGE ELIM 1 AND 2!</b>  <b>Awards: 7:00 – 7:30</b> <i>Debate Awards for Elim 3 and 4 happen in Round.</i>  Elim 3 Debate: 7:30 – 8:30 <b>ALL DEBATE JUDGES WITH DEBATERS IN ELIM 1 JUDGE</b>  Elim 4 Debate: 8:45 – 10:00 <b>ALL DEBATE JUDGES WITH DEBATERS IN ELIM 2 JUDGE</b>	Rd 1 IE: 7:45 – 9:00 (Extemp Prep begins at 7:45am) Super Session Congress: 9:00 – 11:00  Rd 2 IE: 11:00 – 12:15 (Extemp Prep begins at 11:00am) Super Session Congress 12:15 – 2:15  Rd 3 IE: 2:15 – 3:30 (Extemp Prep begins at 2:15pm) Finals IE: 4:30 – 6:00 <b>ALL IE JUDGES JUDGE FINALS!</b> (Extemp Prep begins at 4:30pm) Debaters in Elim 1 who advance to finals of IEs will be scheduled in the first half of the IE Finals round to avoid conflicting with the debate elims. <b>Awards: 7:00 – 7:30</b>  <i>Debate: We do not break brackets in debate because of TOC rules. Coaches will choose which team from their school advances to the next elimination round.</i>
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**Questions? Concerns?** Contact Jim Hanson, Tournament Host, at [hansonj@seattleu.edu](mailto:hansonj@seattleu.edu)