



2025 Rollin G. Osterweis Tournament Invitation

The Yale Debate Association is pleased to invite the Connecticut debate community to attend the 42nd annual Rollin G. Osterweis debate tournament on Sunday, April 13th, 2025. All events will take place on Yale's campus in New Haven, CT. 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 on Wikipedia at [Rollin G. Osterweis](#).

For those of you unfamiliar with the tournament, the Osterweis is a free tournament for Connecticut high school students to experience the collegiate style of parliamentary debate. Debates will focus on issues familiar to the average student, including American and international politics, ethics, and justice. Yale debaters will judge and offer feedback. Awards will be given to the top varsity and top novice teams and speakers.

This tournament will feature both a novice and varsity division. Novice participants should be debaters in their first year of high school debate, and not above sophomore year. Novice participants will have the opportunity to learn about parliamentary procedure in the morning with a demonstration round, and then debate with a partner for 3 preliminary rounds, before breaking to semifinals and a final round.

Varsity teams will compete in 4 preliminary rounds, breaking to semifinals and finals.

Please note that registration will be hosted on tabroom.com. You can register on tabroom.com.

Registration opens Monday, March 3rd at 8.00am and closes Friday, April 4th at 6pm. You can access a set of helpful instructions for registering your team using Tabroom's online manual under "Help/About" on the main menu.

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. <https://form.jotform.com/250287068985168>
- The **primary chaperone** from each school must submit a supervision agreement. All debaters must be accompanied by a chaperone. <https://form.jotform.com/250286909945167>
- Anyone with a **dietary restriction** must submit the dietary restrictions form. <https://form.jotform.com/250287514727158>

These forms are due Friday April 4th at 6 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.

The size of our tournament is limited by our pool of college debaters who will act as judge. We highly encourage schools to register at least 1 novice team for every 2 varsity teams – we feel it is important to give younger debaters a chance to participate. All teams will be waitlisted initially, but we will admit teams daily starting March 29th. We will accept 3 teams per school initially. We encourage you to register as many as 6 teams as in the event that we do not reach our cap, we will be admitting additional teams. Final notification sent out after 10.00PM on April 4th. Name changes, drops, etc., can be made after this time, but we ask you to make changes as soon as you are aware of them.

Email us at osterweis2025@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Feel free to pass this information on to other schools who might be interested. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Warm regards,

Kaley Alexandre-Burke, Patton Hahn, Talia Hsia
Tournament Directors

**Osterweis 2025
Schedule**

9:00AM to 9:30 AM	Registration and breakfast
9:30 AM to 10:40AM	Varsity Round 1, Novice demonstration round
10:45AM to 11:55 AM	Varsity Round 2, Novice Round 1
12:00 PM to 1:10PM	Varsity Round 3, Novice Round 2
1:10 PM to 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00 PM to 3:10 PM	Varsity Round 4, Novice Round 3
3:15PM to 4:00 PM	Speaker awards, break announced
4:00PM to 5:25 PM	Semifinal rounds
5:30 PM to 7 PM	Final rounds

**Osterweis Debate
Format**

Speech	Time (minutes)
Prime Minister Constructive	7
Leader of Opposition Constructive	8
Member of Government	8
Member of Opposition	8
Leader of Opposition Rebuttal	4

Prime Minister Rebuttal	5
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Osterweis follows the American Parliamentary Debate Association format, which is also the format for the parliamentary division of the Yale Invitational. For a brief introduction, see the Style Guide for the Yale Invitational:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/tabroom-files/tourns/16790/postings/22597/YaleParliStyleGuide2020.pdf>

For more in-depth information about APDA format, see their website:

<https://apda.online/> .

The articles in the Novice Mentor section may be of interest to more advanced debaters:

<https://apda.online/category/nm-guides/>