

2025 Sylvan Smackdown

Thursday, March 6th

West Sylvan Middle School

You are invited to a speech and debate tournament on Thursday, March 6th, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm at West Sylvan Middle School, hosted by the West Sylvan Speech and Debate Club. The goal of the tournament is to give middle school students the opportunity to compete in a welcoming and educational environment as well as have fun!

Registration Deadline: March 4th, 2025

Location: 8111 SW West Slope Drive, Portland, OR 97225

Check-in Time: 4:15 pm for judges and 4:30 pm for students. Please sign in at the main entrance doors

Pick-up Time: 9:00 pm

Fees: There will be no fee associated with this event thanks to support from volunteers and Lincoln Speech & Debate Team. However, we would appreciate a \$5-10 cash donation per competitor if you are able. We will have a box at check-in for donations. Thank you!

Food: Please bring your own snacks, dinner, and a water bottle. There will be a cash-only concession stand with snacks, but no dinner will be provided.

Judging: Most of the judges will be provided by the Lincoln Speech and Debate Team, but we do ask for some student volunteers from each school to help judge to lessen the pressure on Lincoln and to create more variety in the judging pool. Refreshments will be provided for judges. Please sign up on Tabroom.

Tabroom Details:

Here is a set of links to various resources to help assist you in your registration.

[Here is a link with instructions on how to create a Tabroom account.](#) **Every student, judge, and coach must have a free Tabroom account.**

[Here is a link with basic instructions regarding managing your account.](#)

Once you have created a Tabroom account, you can register for this tournament at sylvansmackdown.tabroom.com

Or by searching for “**Sylvan Smackdown**” in Tabroom.

If you need help with registering, [here is a link with instructions for competitors to register for tournaments](#)

All other questions can be answered at the [Tabroom help page](#) or by emailing us at bmclemore5998@student.pps.net. Please email us if your club/team would like a flyer to help you advertise the tournament.

WSMS Mini Schedule:

4:15 pm - Check In for Judges

4:30 Judge Orientation / Check in for Students

5:00 Opening Remarks

5:10 Round 1

6:00 Round 2

6:50 Round 3

7:40 Round 4

8:30 Awards Prep

8:45 Awards Ceremony

***Each round will consist of both speech and debate events. A student may participate in 1 debate form OR up to two speech events

Events:

The events are based on high school events with reduced times and students may use note cards, papers or electronic notes. Students will be able to access the Internet during rounds for all prepared events and parliamentary debate. A student may participate in 1 debate form OR up to two speech events.

Debate Events:

Public Forum Debate:

2-person team. Teams prepare original cases with evidence for both sides. Teams will be assigned a side on postings.

Topic: Schools should be required to apply for a search warrant before searching student's backpacks or lockers

Time:

1st Proposition Speaker - 3 min

1st Opposition Speaker - 3 min

Crossfire - 2 min

2nd Proposition Speaker - 3 min

2nd Opposition Speaker - 3 min

Crossfire - 2 min

Common Prep Time - 1 min

1st Proposition Speaker - 2 min

1st Opposition Speaker - 2 min

*Teams can take 2 min prep time in between rounds

Parliamentary Debate

2 person team. Teams will be assigned a side on postings. The proposition will get 3 topics and they will cross one, and the opposition will cross one. Then, the teams prepare their cases in 10 minutes using pen and paper and Internet access with the remaining topic. Use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT will not be tolerated during rounds, and there will be consequences for any students found to be using AI. During the debate, the opponent can stand to ask a question after the first 30 seconds but before the last 30 seconds. Questioning and/or new arguments in the rebuttals are not allowed.

Times:

1st Proposition Speaker - 3 min
1st Opposition Speaker - 4 min
2nd Proposition Speaker - 4 min
2nd Opposition Speaker - 4 min
1st Opposition Speaker - 2 min
1st Proposition Speaker - 3 min

Individual Events:

Impromptu:

Given three prompts (word, phrase, quote), the student chooses one, prepares for one minute and then speaks for 3 minutes. Grace period of 30 seconds with no minimum time limit.

Interpretive Reading:

The student extemporaneously introduces a theme and then, from a binder, presents a poem, prose, or a mixture to exhibit that theme. 5 minutes with a grace period of 30 seconds with no minimum time limit.

Oratory:

Students present a prepared informative or persuasive speech about a topic of their choice. 4 minutes with a grace period of 30 seconds with no minimum time limit.

Radio Commentary

Student presents a speech of original news/event/situation commentary dealing with current events of the current school year facing away from the judge and sitting down. Student is not required to memorize the speech but rather encouraged to present as if broadcasting. 2:45 - 3:15 minutes with no grace period.

We hope this will be a lot of fun, and we hope you will join us. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible!

For questions and comments, please email:

limjulia927@gmail.com.

Thank you,

West Sylvan Middle School Speech & Debate Club
Lincoln Speech and Debate Team

