

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
2026 INVITATIONAL**

January 2026

Dear Coaches,

The Ben Franklin Speech and Debate Team is pleased to invite you and your team to compete in the Benjamin Franklin Speech & Debate Invitational, January 23 & 24, 2026.

We will be offering the following events: Declamation (9th & 10th graders only), Extemporaneous Speaking (novice and varsity), Impromptu Speaking (novice and varsity), Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, Humorous Performance, Duo Interpretation, Informative Speech, Student Congress, Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate, Advance Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate (open division). Our tentative schedule is below this invite.

Please submit your entry no later than **Wednesday, January 21, 2025** via Tabroom.com. Drops and late entries without penalty is 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Your promptness will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to having you and your teams join us in an exciting weekend of competition and memories. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding entries, accommodations or directions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fontenot, Coach

Stephanie Garrison, Coach

***DEADLINES:**

ENTRY DUE:	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026
LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT FEE:	THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026
LAST DAY TO ADD:	THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

***IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

BEN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL: 504-286-2600
BARBARA FONTENOT'S CELL: 504-390-1013
STEPHANIE GARRISON'S CELL: 845-380-7337

***E-MAIL:** sgarrison@bfhsla.org
bfontenot@bfhsla.org

***ENTRY LIMITS:**

SPEECH: STUDENTS MAY ENTER 3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS AND ONE TEAM EVENT.
DEBATE: ONE DEBATE CATEGORY ONLY
CONGRESS: OPEN TO ALL

***TIME LIMITS:**

THE FIRST TIME A STUDENT/TEAM GOES OVER THE 30 SECOND GRACE PERIOD, JUDGES SHOULD NOTIFY TABROOM. CONTESTANTS GOING TWO MINUTES BEYOND GRACE (30 SECONDS) WILL BE STOPPED BY THE JUDGE.

***JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:**

DEBATE: 1 JUDGE FOR EVERY THREE ENTRIES OR FRACTION THEREOF
I.E.: 1 JUDGE FOR EVERY FOUR ENTRIES OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Each school **MUST** provide the required number of judges. Names must accompany your entry. If a school cannot provide the required number of judges, your entry must be adjusted. A limited number of judges will be available for hire.

We will assign all preliminary rounds. You will receive notifications from Tabroom. All judges not assigned are obligated to remain available in the event of a no-show. Schools are obligated to remain available for judging for at least one round beyond their elimination. **Schools failing to pick up assigned ballots will be fined \$25.00 for each ballot not picked up.**

AWARDS:

Certificates and medals shall be awarded to those students placing first, second, and third in each event.

FEES:

\$ 9.00 per individual events (including Congress)

\$18.00 for teamed events

EVENT RULES:

Please see the NCFL and LHSSL Constitutions in addition to the new coaches manual for complete rules governing each of the events offered. See the rostrum for the January/February debate resolutions. Please note that binders will be used for OI as regulated by the Louisiana High School Speech League.

Laptops will be allowed in Extemp prep and debate, but users must follow league rules regarding Internet access. Competitors in violation will be disqualified.

*We pride ourselves on the efficiency of our tournament. Your assistance in having your judges pick up their ballots on time and your students getting to their rounds on time will greatly help to enhance your tournament experience and will be appreciated.

SANCTIONING:

This tournament is sanctioned by the New Orleans Catholic Forensic League and the Louisiana High School Speech League.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 2026 INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE
(Subject to change)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026
(ALL TIMES ARE CST)

12:00-3:30	STUDENT CONGRESS
2:00PM	REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION VIA TABROOM (Room 206B)
4:00-5:30	DUO/DEBATE RD I
5:30-7:00	DUO/DEBATE RD II
7:00-8:30	DUO/DEBATE RD III
8:30-10:00	DEBATE RD IV

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

7:30AM	EXTEMP DRAW (Room 328)
8:00-9:30	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RD
9:30-11:00	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RD II
11:00-12:15PM	DEBATE QUARTER FINALS
12:15	EXTEMP DRAW, SEMI FINALS
12:45-2:15	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: SEMI FINALS
2:30	DEBATE: SEMI FINALS
4:00	EXTEMP DRAW, FINALS
4:30 – 6:00	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: FINALS
6:00	DEBATE FINALS
7:30	AWARDS