

CSUF Forensics invites you to the **40th semi-annual Blumer Speech and Debate Invitational** to be held in-person on the CSUF campus on **Saturday November 15, 2025**. The Blumer tournament provides a great opportunity for your novice students in Public Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Introduction to Human Communication, or Essentials of Argumentation/Debate to get some practice, competition and/or extra-credit, and perhaps join the team next season.

Current students* enrolled in (or having previously taken) HCOM classes (CSUF) and Communication Studies classes at other institutions are eligible to participate in Individual Events or Debate. We can't hold this event without your students, so please encourage participation!

- For Individual Events, we will be offering two preliminary rounds and one final round of competition for all events. **Students must compete in ALL rounds to which they advance.** Events will have four categories: Informative, Persuasive, Oral Interpretation, and Impromptu.
- For Debate, there will be four rounds of competition. **Students must compete in ALL rounds to which they advance.**

Below you will find more detailed tournament information, such as guidelines, deadlines, descriptions of events, and the entry links. Feel free to post this information on your class sites for your students and invite them in your classes! Participating in speech and debate is a great way to stay connected, as a competitor and as a judge!

All entries are due by 7:00pm Wednesday, November 12.

Please check the judging requirements. Please let us know ASAP whether or not you can judge. We do not want to have to institute an entry limit per instructor if we do not have enough judges.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (SPEECH) SCHEDULE

10:00-10:15am	Registration McCarthy Hall 404
10:30am	Judge & Competitor Welcome and Instructions
11:15-12:30pm	Round 1
12:30-1:00pm	Break
1:00-2:30pm	Round 2
2:45-4:15pm	Finals round
4:30pm or ASAP	Awards

DEBATE SCHEDULE

8:30am	Registration and prep in McCarthy Hall 404
9:30-11:00am	Round 1
11:00am-12:30pm	Round 2
12:30-1:00pm	Break
1:00-2:30pm	Round 3
2:45-4:15pm	Round 4 (Finals)
4:30pm or ASAP	Awards

We look forward to seeing your students here. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the tournament directors:

Collette Blumer (Individual Events)
CSUF Forensics
cblumer@fullerton.edu

Natalie Yehezkel (Debate)
CSUF Forensics
natalie.forensics@gmail.com

COMPETITORS ONLY:

1. **Register by Wednesday, November 12 @7pm:**
2. To register, submit this google form: <https://forms.gle/BqozPG8dBHeth4568>

JUDGES ONLY:

1. **Register by Wednesday, November 12 @7pm:**
2. To register, submit this google form: <https://forms.gle/KUDRGDUbZDpQChjr5>

Who can enter:

- Participants should be current students* enrolled in or having previously taken HCOM classes, COMM classes, and equivalent classes at other institutions. Novices on Forensics teams are also welcome.
- Students can enter more than one Individual Event (Informative/Persuasive/Impromptu/Oral Interpretation) but cannot enter BOTH Individual Events and Debate.

Judge requirement:

- Judges can be instructors, graduate students, extra credit undergrads (typically in 200-or higher level classes), or open/varsity Forensics team members.
- Instructors, please offer one judge for every 6 entries, or fraction thereof. If this is a hardship, let us know. We could really use you as a judge!

TIPS/FAQ:

- REGISTER on Wednesday first!!!
- Make sure you register at the correct link, depending on whether you are competing or judging.
- After the tournament, results and ballots/judge comments will be sent to competitors' instructors for participation verification and to be passed along to the students
- Participation by judges will be in the form of a stamped judge card from the tournament

INDIVIDUAL EVENT INFORMATION and EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

- Individual Events have four events (Informative, Persuasive, Oral Interpretation, and Impromptu).
- Competitors in Individual Events should dress as professionally as possible with what they already have in their closet.
- 3x5 notecards are allowed in Individual Events. Competitors should not use electronic devices as notes.
- We won't have access to the electronics in the competition rooms, so visual aids, if used, should be low-tech.

INFORMATIVE (INF): An original, factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill the general goal of informing the audience. Visuals may or may not be used to reinforce the message. Minimum 5 minutes—maximum 10 minutes.

PERSUASIVE (PER): An original speech that is persuasive in nature. Visuals may or may not be used. Minimum 5 minutes—maximum 10 minutes.

IMPROMPTU (IMP): Topic selection is varied by using brief quotations, personalities, events, etc. One blank notecard is allowed for prep and speech. Total time (prep time + speech) should be as close as possible to, but not exceed, 7 minutes.

ORAL INTERPRETATION (INT): Minimum 5 minutes—maximum 10 minutes. This is not an acting event--no costumes or props are permitted. Choose from the following:

- Dramatic Interpretation: A cutting (scene) from a play/podcast/performance of literary merit.
- Prose: A cutting of prose of literary merit, typically from a short story.
- Poetry: A prepared selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, focusing on a main theme. Selections may be drawn from more than one source.
- Program of Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or more of the recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose; poetry; drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each genre used in the program.

CARD DEBATE INFORMATION and FORMAT

Resolved: The United States should actively promote substantially greater unionization by implementing the Protecting the Right to Organize Act or facilitating sectoral bargaining.

*Note that Junior division teams advocating for the PRO Act must defend the act in its entirety.

You can find the [library of approved articles](#) on the CARD website. Only cards drawn from these articles are allowed.

The CARD website also has information on the [governing rules of the activity](#), which the tournament will enforce.

The [speaking times](#) are as follows:

20 mins - pre-round prep

1AC - 6 minutes

CX - 3 minutes

1NC - 6 minutes

CX - 3 minutes

2AC - 6 minutes

CX - 3 minutes

2NC - 6 minutes

CX - 3 minutes

1NR - 4 minutes

1AR - 4 minutes

2NR - 4 minutes

2AR - 4 minutes

Post-round discussion: 15 minutes, which will be enforced

Evidence and Ethics

- Debaters are responsible for the validity of any evidence used in the debate. Evidence includes but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and not considered evidence.
- Teams must reveal any evidence used in the debate to their opponent upon request. Judges will determine the appropriate speaker point penalty for debaters that cannot provide evidence upon request.
- Fabricating evidence will result in an automatic loss. Ellipses in evidence are prohibited.
- Debaters are expected, at a minimum, to orally deliver the following when introducing evidence into the round: primary author(s) last name and the year or publication.
- Debaters are permitted to paraphrase evidence if the speaker orally delivers a source and can provide the text of the evidence upon opponent request.

*Participants should be novice/rookie level (not varsity/open level competitors). There may be an exception in Oral Interpretation if we don't have enough competitors in that event 😊.