

FLORIDA BLUE KEY SPEECH & DEBATE

2026 ROUND ROBIN



Florida Blue Key – 3160 J. Wayne Reitz Union – PO Box 118505 – Gainesville, Florida 32611

A NOTE FROM FLORIDA BLUE KEY

**Congratulations on your acceptance to the
2026 Florida Blue Key Round Robin! This
packet should address any questions you
may have. We are excited to host you all for
the start of a great weekend!**

Sincerely,

**Emilia Hueller, Madison Levitt, & Ammar
Mansuri
Round Robin Directors**



2026 ROUND ROBIN INVITATIONAL

CONTENTS

Where is the Round Robin?	4
When is the Round Robin?	4
Judging	4
Evidence	4
Generative AI Policy	5
Congress	6
Extemp	7
Extemp Finals	8
Dramatic Performance	10
Lincoln–Douglas	10
Public Forum	11
Awards	11
Dietary Restrictions	12
Additional Questions?	12

WHERE IS THE ROUND ROBIN?

The Round Robin will take place at the J. Wayne Reitz Union at the University of Florida campus. The address for the Reitz Union is 686 Museum Rd, Gainesville, FL 32611.

WHEN IS THE ROUND ROBIN?

The Round Robin will take place on Thursday, October 29, 2026. Registration and breakfast will be from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM in the Reitz Union, at Rion Ballroom East, located on the third floor of the Reitz Union. The first judge call will be at 7:45 AM for both debate and speech. Please make sure your judges are in Rion West by 7:45AM and for the rest of the day during judge call. Schools will be fined \$50 per round that a judge does not appear at judge call for. Rounds will start promptly at 8 AM. Please reference your event's section for the schedule. We expect to begin the Awards Banquet by 7:00 PM.

JUDGING

The judging requirement is one per entry. Please go to Tabroom to fill out a form and paradigm for each judge. We expect that teams and competitors who are accepted into the Round Robin bring experienced judges with speech and debate background. However, we understand that is not always possible. Competitors should be assured that the Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate team has worked very hard to provide a pool of fully capable judges. Schools will be fined \$50 per round that a judge does not appear at judge call for. When judges do not show up at judge call, the entire Round Robin falls behind. For this reason, fines will be strictly enforced.

EVIDENCE

We will be following the latest evidence rules that have been created by the NSDA. Breaching these rules will be subject to disqualification.

GENERATIVE AI POLICY

For this tournament, we will enforce NSDA rules which outline: “Events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor, students are prohibited from using or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be cited as a source. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested. In debate events, generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested. In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be used as a source of material; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.” We discourage the use of Generative AI as a whole. All final decisions regarding AI violations are at the discretion of our Tournament Chair and Round Robin Directors.

CONGRESS

STAGE	SESSION	START TIME	END TIME
PRELIMS	JUDGE CALL	7:30 AM	—
	PRELIM SESSION	8:00 AM	11:30 AM
	LUNCH	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
ELIMS	ROUND OF 6	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
	ROUND OF 5	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
	ROUND OF 4	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
	ROUND OF 3	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
	FINAL ROUND	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
AWARDS	AWARDS BANQUET	7:00 PM	—

Schedule is subject to change.

- The docket will be predetermined by the Round Robin staff and will be released in order of rounds.
- Preliminary Session: The preliminary round will include all competitors. During the first half of the round, competitors will give a “Morning Hour” speech on a topic of their choice. The second half will resume with debate on “Bill 1.”
- Morning Hour: During the preliminary session, competitors will spend the first hour delivering “Morning Hour” speeches. The Morning Hour speech should communicate an issue that competitors feel passionately about and convey it as a specifically pressing issue in our society. In this speech, competitors should introduce the issue, offer solutions, and explain why it is important.

ELIMINATION ROUNDS

- Round of 6: After the preliminary round, the top 6 competitors will advance to the Round of 6. In this round, competitors will debate “Bill 2.”
- Round of 5: The top 5 competitors will advance to the Round of 5. In this round, competitors will debate “Bill 3.”
- Round of 4: The top 4 competitors will advance to the Round of 4. In this round, competitors will debate “Bill 4.”
- Round of 3: The top 3 competitors will advance to the Round of 3. In this round, competitors will debate “Bill 5.”

FINAL ROUND (ROUND OF 2)

The top 2 competitors will advance to the Final Round, where they will debate “Bill 6.” There will be one affirmative speaker and one negative speaker. Since this is the final round, the format will be as follows:

1. AFF speech (3 min), followed by 2 minutes of questioning
2. NEG speech (3 min), followed by 2 minutes of questioning
3. 5-minute recess for competitors to prepare rebuttal speeches
4. AFF rebuttal (3 min), followed by 2 minutes of questioning
5. NEG rebuttal (3 min), followed by 2 minutes of questioning

EXTEMP

- Extemp will consist of 3 preliminary rounds breaking to finals.
- The 4 topics will feature a mix of US Extemp and International Extemp questions.
- The final round will also feature 2 minutes of cross-examination after each speech.
- All forms of generative AI in preparation may lead to disqualification. Refer to our Generative AI Policy.
- Judges are required to be at the Extemp draw room at 7:45 AM to receive training on crossfire in Extemp.
- Round 1 Topic: Environmental Affairs (IX)
- Round 2 Topic: US Legislative Issues (USX)
- Round 3 Topic: International Economy (IX)
- Finals Topic: Written by UF Professors

TENTATIVE EXTEMP SCHEDULE

STAGE	ROUND	DRAW	START TIME
PRELIMS	ROUND 1	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
	ROUND 2	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
	LUNCH	—	—
	ROUND 3	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
ELIMS	FINALS	4:00 PM	4:30 PM

EXTEMP FINALS

THIS YEAR, ROUND ROBIN EXTEMP FINALS QUESTIONS WILL BE WRITTEN BY UF PROFESSORS FROM DIFFERENT FIELDS. BELOW ARE THE BIOS OF THE PROFESSORS WRITING THE QUESTIONS, SO COMPETITORS CAN PREPARE FOR THE ROUND.



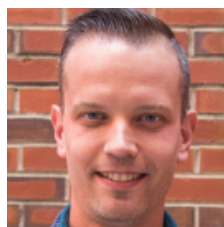
PROFESSOR MOLLY HARRY

Molly Harry is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sport Management. Through predominantly qualitative and mixed-methods approaches, her research explores ways to integrate “big-time” athletics into the American academy with a focus on two areas: (1) understanding the relationship between the NCAA, institutions, and athletic departments, and (2) examining ways the NCAA, institutions, and athletic departments can improve athletes’ developmental opportunities and experiences.



PROFESSOR BARBARA MENNEL

Professor Barbara Mennel holds a joint appointment in the German Studies section of LLC and in the English Department where she is associated with the Film and Media Studies Program and the Feminisms, Genders, & Sexualities Track. Her research interests include miniatures, transnational cinematic practices, feminist and queer theory, and the intersection of urban studies and film studies.



PROFESSOR GREGORY HUDALLA

Dr. Gregory Hudalla is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the principal investigator of the UF Supramolecular Bio Lab. His research employs molecular engineering approaches to localize and amplify the activity of biotherapeutics. Dr. Hudalla and his team develop novel recombinant fusion constructs and scaffolds for biotherapeutic immobilization to advance biotherapeutic manufacturing, which is essential for the successful clinical translation of new drugs.



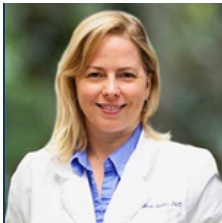
PROFESSOR WESLEY BOLCH

Dr. Wesley Bolch is a Distinguished Professor in the Biomedical Engineering Department and he directs UF’s Advanced Laboratory for Radiation Dosimetry Studies (ALRADS). He is an internationally recognized leader in biomedical engineering whose career has focused on making the use of radiation in medicine safer, smarter, and more precise. Dr. Bolch has spent decades advancing how scientists and clinicians measure, model, and manage radiation exposure, which has reshaped medical imaging, cancer therapy, and public health worldwide.



PROFESSOR KEVIN ARTIGA

Kevin Artiga is an instructor in the Department of English whose teaching explores the intersection of popular culture, technology, and digital media. In his Honors (Un)Common Arts course, Pop Music After 2008, he examines how the rise of streaming platforms, social media, and internet culture has transformed the production, distribution, and consumption of popular music. Through artists spanning pop, hip-hop, hyperpop, and global music, the course explores how technological advancements, economic shifts, and online fandoms shape contemporary music and culture.



PROFESSOR CHERIE STABLER

Dr. Cherie Stabler is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering. She is also an Affiliate Member of the Diabetes Institute at the School of Medicine at the University of Florida. Her internationally recognized research centers on the engineering of cell-based tissues for the treatment of Type 1 diabetes, specifically the development of novel biomaterials for cellular encapsulation, three-dimensional scaffolds, and in situ oxygen and drug release. Her research has a particular emphasis on cell-based therapies, which aim to enhance graft survival and utilize local and translational approaches to dampen host immunological responses. Dr. Stabler's work spans from designing new biomaterials to seeking FDA clearance for combination products.



PROFESSOR BRIAN RAY

Brian Ray is a faculty member at the University of Florida, where he serves as Director of the Poe Business Ethics Center and an Instructional Professor of Leadership and Ethics. Dr. Ray is also the Contributing Professor for the Wall Street Journal in the fields of leadership and ethics and teaches graduate-level ethics courses for the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs. For 17 years, Dr. Ray served as Associate Dean for the University of Florida Warrington College of Business. In that capacity, he was responsible for leading a nationally ranked undergraduate program with over 4,000 students.



PROFESSOR CARLOS SUÁREZ

Carlos A. Suárez is an Associate Instructional Professor and Director of Master and Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies at the Center for Latin American Studies. He has a joint appointment with the Department of Political Science; and is an Affiliate Faculty member of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a B.A. in Political Science from the Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. His primary teaching and research interests are in urban politics, gated communities, city marketing/branding, and urban politics in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

Round 1 — 10:00 AM

Round 2 — 12:00 PM

Lunch — 1:00 PM

Round 3 — 2:00 PM

Final — 4:30 PM

TENTATIVE LINCOLN- DOUGLAS SCHEDULE

STAGE	ROUND	PAIRING	START TIME
PRELIMS	ROUND 1	7:40 AM	8:00 AM
	ROUND 2	9:00 AM	9:20 AM
	ROUND 3	10:20 AM	10:40 AM
	LUNCH	—	—
	ROUND 4	12:30 PM	12:50 PM
	ROUND 5	1:50 PM	2:10 PM
	ROUND 6	3:10 PM	3:30 PM
ELIMS	FINALS	—	5:00 PM

TENTATIVE PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE

STAGE	ROUND	PAIRING	START TIME
PRELIMS	ROUND 1	8:00 AM	8:20 AM
	ROUND 2	9:20 AM	9:40 AM
	ROUND 3	10:40 AM	11:00 AM
	LUNCH	—	—
	ROUND 4	12:40 PM	1:00 PM
	ROUND 5	2:00 PM	2:20 PM
ELIMS	SEMIFINALS	3:20 PM	3:40 PM
	FINALS	—	5:00 PM

AWARDS

Award of Excellence

The evening program will also feature our second annual Award of Excellence, presented to a student for their impact on the speech and debate community. This award is a chance to recognize a student known for their extraordinary record of achievement and service — and gives students the opportunity to share how speech and debate has impacted their lives and shaped their futures.

Board of Governors IMPACT Award

This year, we are introducing a new award to highlight a competitor. The Board of Governors IMPACT Award recognizes a distinguished Public Forum debate team that exemplifies the shared values of the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Blue Key: academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, integrity, collaboration, and principled leadership.

Inspired by the State University System of Florida's six core values — Integrity, Modeling Excellence, Pursuing Knowledge, Access & Affordability, Collaboration, and Transformative Innovation (IMPACT) — this award honors young debaters who demonstrate the power of thoughtful discourse, intellectual integrity, and collaborative leadership to create meaningful change.

A member of the Florida Board of Governors will attend the Public Forum final rounds to observe competitors and select the inaugural recipient of this distinguished award.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dietary Restrictions

For any competitor, coach, or parent chaperone requiring accommodation, please indicate any dietary restrictions using this form: forms.gle/35PcKns7MQfM7UBc6

Any Additional Questions?

If you have any other questions concerning the Round Robin, please feel free to email roundrobin@fbkdebate.org. For any immediate issues or questions, please call or text Emilia Hueller at [\(954\) 649-5483](tel:(954)649-5483)