



Rollin G. Osterweis Tournament Invitation

The Yale Debate Association is pleased to invite the Connecticut debate community to attend the 44th annual Rollin G. Osterweis Tournament on **Sunday, March 1, 2026**. The tournament will take place on Yale's campus in New Haven, CT.

Overview

The Osterweis is a free tournament for Connecticut high school students to experience the collegiate style of parliamentary debate. In addition to excellent competition, students will enjoy judging and feedback from current members of the YDA, as well as the opportunity to spend time on Yale's campus. 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](#).

The tournament will include **Novice** and **Varsity** divisions:

- **Novice** teams will have the opportunity to learn more about parliamentary debate by watching a **demonstration round** featuring some of the YDA's top debaters. Afterward, teams will debate **three preliminary rounds**, before elimination rounds begin.
 - Debaters in the novice division must be in their first year of high school debate, and may not be above sophomore year.
- **Varsity** teams will debate **four preliminary rounds**, before elimination rounds begin.
 - Teams where only one debater meets novice eligibility criteria should still be registered in the varsity division.

Debates will focus on issues familiar to the average student, including American and international politics, ethics, and justice. Osterweis will follow the **American Parliamentary Debate Association** format; information about APDA can be found in this [Guide](#). YDA debaters will judge rounds and provide feedback to debaters, and awards will be given to the top speakers and teams in each division.

Check-in will open at 8:30 am the day of the tournament, and all teams must have arrived by 9:00 am. The demo and preliminary rounds should finish by 3:30 pm. Elimination rounds (we expect breaks to semifinals in Novice and Varsity) should finish by 6:30 pm. You can view the full schedule on [Tabroom](#). All participants will be provided with free breakfast and lunch, though everyone should bring a water bottle (refill stations are located around campus).

Registration

Registration for the tournament takes place through [Tabroom](#). The size of the tournament is limited by our pool of college debaters who will be judging rounds. Tabroom will automatically waitlist all teams when they are registered. We will initially admit 3 teams per school, but we encourage you to register up to 6 teams per school, as we will admit additional teams until we reach tournament capacity. We strongly encourage schools to register at least one novice team for every two varsity teams; we believe it is important to give younger debaters a chance to participate. Please note the registration schedule:

- **February 1:** registration opens on Tabroom at 8:00 am
- **February 8:** an initial 3 teams per school will be admitted off the waitlist
- **February 11:** additional teams per school will be admitted off the waitlist (pending capacity)
- **February 18:** final teams will be admitted by the end of the day
 - Name changes, drops, etc. are still allowed after this date, but we ask that you minimize them as much as possible

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.
 - [Parent/Guardian Waiver](#)
- The **primary chaperone** from each school must submit a supervision agreement. All debaters must be accompanied by a chaperone.
 - [School Supervision Agreement](#)
- Anyone with **dietary restrictions** who plans on eating tournament-provided food should submit the dietary restrictions form.
 - [Dietary Restrictions Form](#)

These forms are due one week before the tournament, on **February 22, 2026 at 11:59 pm**. 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.

Questions

We so look forward to welcoming you to Yale in March! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at ydatournaments@gmail.com; you can generally expect a response within 48 hours.

Sincerely,
Kylie Berg and Vishwa Rakasi
Tournament Directors