

The Gauntlet Speech & Debate Tournament



Dear Coaches and Competitors,

The Harrisburg High School Speech & Debate program invites you to **The Gauntlet Speech & Debate Tournament**. As we move deeper into the qualifying season, our goal is simple: provide a competitive, efficient, and student-centered tournament experience that matches the level of work your teams have put in all year.

This tournament is designed to challenge competitors, support coaches, and ensure high-quality rounds across all events.

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

- **Debate Divisions:**
 - Varsity
 - JV
- **Events Offered:**
 - Public Forum (PF)
 - Lincoln-Douglas (LD)
 - Individual Events (IEs)
 - Student Congress
- **Topics:**
 - PF: February NSDA Topic
 - LD: January–February NSDA Topic
- **IE Structure:**
 - 3 Preliminary Rounds
 - Finals on Friday
 - **Speech Awards Friday Evening**
- **Debate Structure:**
 - 2 Preliminary Rounds on Friday
 - Remaining Rounds + Elims on Saturday
- **Congress:**
 - 2 Sessions

The Gauntlet

Speech & Debate Tournament

JUDGING & EXPECTATIONS

- We will run **sections of 5 competitors in all events** to maintain competitive integrity and efficiency.
- **Online balloting will be required** for all IE and Debate rounds.
 - Please bring a fully charged device.
- **Judge Preparation:**

As we are in the heart of the qualifying season, we are asking all judges to complete relevant **NSDA certification courses** in the events they are judging.

 - This is about fairness, consistency, and honoring the work our students have put in.
 - If you encounter any issues, please reach out. We will help.
- **FYO Policy:**
 - No First Year Out judges will judge **speech events on Friday**
 - Friday IE competition is **Varsity-only**, and we want to ensure experienced adjudication.

BELONGING & INCLUSION

We are proud to offer a **Belonging and Inclusion Office**, led by **Coach Heather Reed**. This space is available to support students and coaches and help ensure that every participant feels respected, safe, and valued throughout the tournament.

TOC BID STATUS

We are hoping to be a **returning TOC Bid Tournament in Speech** again this year.

In addition, we are hoping to be a **Bid Tournament for both Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas**.

To support this goal, we will **adjust the schedule as needed to include the maximum number of bids possible**.

Updates will be shared as soon as bid status is confirmed.

The Gauntlet

Speech & Debate Tournament

SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Friday, February 12 – Speech & Early Debate

- 9:00 AM – Building Opens / Registration
- 10:00 AM – Extemp Draw Round 1
- 10:30 AM – Speech Round 1
- 10:30 AM – Congress Session
- 11:15 AM – Extemp Draw Round 2
- 11:45 AM – Speech Round 2
- 12:45 PM – Extemp Draw Round 3
- 1:15 PM – Speech Round 3
- 1:15 PM – Congress Finals

Break

- 2:30 PM – Extemp Final Draw
 - 2:55 PM – Speech Honor Finals (if needed)
 - 3:00 PM – Speech Finals
 - **Speech Awards to follow**
 - 5:30 PM – Debate Round 1
 - 6:45 PM – Debate Round 2
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Saturday, February 13 – Debate

- 8:00 AM – Building Opens
- 9:00 AM – Debate Round 3
- 10:15 AM – Debate Round 4
- 11:45 AM – Debate Round 5

Lunch Break

- 1:30 PM – Elimination Round 1
- 3:00 PM – Elimination Round 2
- **Awards (as rounds progress)**
- 5:30 PM – Final Elimination Round

The Gauntlet

Speech & Debate Tournament

TOURNAMENT FLOW

We will **accelerate the tournament whenever logistically possible**.

Elimination rounds will be determined based on entry size and TOC bid requirements.

Our goal is simple:

Stay efficient. Stay competitive. Respect everyone's time.

FINAL NOTE

This is a tournament built for students who are ready to compete at a high level.

We are excited to host you, challenge you, and provide an environment that reflects the best of what speech and debate can be.

If you have questions, reach out anytime.

We look forward to seeing you at **The Gauntlet**.

Sincerely,

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