UHigh Pioneer Debate Tournament 2026
University High School
Public Forum & Lincoln-Douglas Tournament
November 14, 2026

Attention Debate Coaches!

You are cordially welcome to the campus of Illinois State University for a 5-round tournament in Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas Debate! We will be back at Illinois State University this year! The tournament will be based out of Schroeder Hall, but rounds could occur in Stevenson Hall, Williams Hall, and Fell Hall as well. Please plan on needing to walk between buildings in November.

We will offer competition in three divisions of debate as long as entries warrant!

Novice: Any competitor in their first year of high school debate competition
Junior Varsity: Any competitor in their first or second year of high school debate competition
Varsity: Any competitor
Varsity members in their 3rd or 4th year of debate are allowed to judge the novice division. Competitors may be moved up to a higher division, but no debater may be moved to a lower level of competition.

Fees: $30.00 per Public Forum team or Lincoln-Douglas entry

Checks can be brought to the tournament or sent to:
University High School
Attention Debate Team
601 Gregory Street
Normal, IL 61790-7100

Judging Requirements:
1 judge/every two Public Forum Teams
1 judge/every two Lincoln-Douglas Debaters
* For example, if you enter 3 Public Forum teams and 3 Lincoln-Douglas debaters, you would owe 4 judges, 2 for PF and 2 for LD.

**If you have extra judges OR if you are in need of hiring extra judges, please reach out. We will attempt to get you in contact with judges that are available. We are hopeful that we will have some extra UHigh alumni available as well as members of the ISU Debate Team.

Registration:
We will conduct registration at http://pioneerdebate.tabroom.com. All entries are due by Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM. We will initially limit each team to 4 entries/division, but if you need to go beyond that, please reach out, and we will allow additional entries as the tournament has room.

Food:
Our Speech and Debate parents will be providing lunch for our coaches and adult judges. Students will be able to order pizzas and we will have a small concession stand with snacks and beverages for sale. Pizza pre-orders will be available through tabroom and due on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Disclosure:
Judges MAY disclose in ALL divisions. Following the end of each round, we will release win-loss records for all debates as well as ballots.

Errors may be corrected. For example, if the ballot states “I vote Pro” in the RFD, but the judge awarded the Con team the victory, we will adjust.

Matters of interpretation will NOT be considered. For example, if a judge writes that a debater dropped an argument, but the debater feels that they answered it, we will NOT be litigating rounds. Judge decisions are final.

Please note, disclosure is ***NOT*** a substitute for written feedback. Written feedback is essential to the debaters and for their coaches to work with them.

Tentative Schedule:

8:15AM	Onsite AND Online registration (please complete online registration and shoot a text to 217 493-0859 when you arrive on campus. Payment can be brought to the tabroom in Schroeder Hall Room 246.)
8:45AM	Judges Meeting
9:00AM	Round 1
10:15AM	Round 2
11:45AM	Round 3
12:45PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Round 4
2:45PM	Round 5
4:00PM	Awards

Location:
Illinois State University
Schroeder Hall
427-499 W College Ave
Normal, IL 61761

Lodging:
If teams are looking to travel down the night before, we can recommend hotels in town, but we have not reserved a formal room block. The IHSA State Volleyball Tournament is in town that weekend, so rooms may be limited. We would recommend booking refundable rooms in case the tournament is canceled due to weather.

Contact Information:
Coaches: Abigail Cash (ahcash@ilstu.edu), Alex Redell (aeredel@ilstu.edu) & Rebekah Hoffman (rahoffm@ilstu.edu)