



Mustang Speech & Debate Invitational

Murrah High School

Jackson, MS

October 23-24, 2026

You are invited! Murrah High School welcomes you and your team to its campus in Jackson, Mississippi, for a weekend of Speech & Debate competition on October 23-24, 2026.

Please read over the details below and contact Mr. Micah Everson at micah.everson406@gmail.com or 601.376.9214 with any questions.

For the most part, this will be a “regular” MHSAA Invitational tournament, with most of the usual events and typical schedule. As such, our tournament is a qualifier to the MHSAA State Tournament to be held April 30-May 1, 2027.

Coaches - if you attended our tournament last year or are generally used to MHSAA invitationals, you probably don't need to review most of what is below. The two unique or uncommon things you probably need to know are:

- 1) We will *not* offer the supplemental events of Expository and Storytelling
- 2) We *will* offer middle school events, specifically Public Forum, Impromptu, and a catch-all Middle-School Interp event that will encompass Prose/Poetry/HI/DI/Declamation. More info on middle school events below.

If you are a **new coach** or usually compete in another circuit, it's a good idea to read through all of this.

The Basics

Location

Murrah High School 1400 Murrah Drive Jackson, MS 39202

Money

Checks payable to **Murrah Debate Quiz Bowl Boosters (MDQBB)**.

Entry fees: \$10 per solo events entry, \$12 per partner events entry.

Judge fees: \$150 per missing debate judge, \$75 per missing speech judge.

These judge fees above are outrageous by design. We don't want to charge judge fees. Bring judges to cover your entries. Debate judges are obligated to judge both Friday and Saturday. Speech judges are only obligated for Saturday. Adequate judge pool = fewer rounds per judge = happier judges and better ballots.

Schedule

Debate rounds start at 5:00pm on Friday and should wrap up around 10:00pm.

Debate elims start 8:00am Saturday and should be finished by 2:00pm.

Speech rounds start at 9:00am Saturday, with finals scheduled for 5:00pm & 6:00pm.

We aim to start awards by 7:30pm and have you on your way home by 8:30pm.

A more detailed schedule is below.

Registration

Can be found at <http://murrah.tabroom.com/>. If you are reading this, it's now open.

Competitor registration is due by 11:59pm on Monday, October 19.

Judge registration is due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, October 20.

Adult Supervision, Observers, Outside Food, and Judging

A team coach must be present on campus at all times for supervision. The coach who will be physically present at the tournament should be indicated during registration on tabroom.com.

Exceptions to expectation this must be communicated to and approved by MHSAA and communicated to Mr. Everson. Reach out to Mrs. Rachel Clapper-Davis regarding MHSAA exceptions and approval.

The host school does not have the discretion to allow exceptions to MHSAA policies.

Coaches not assisting with tabulation or other tournament operations are expected to judge, even if a school's obligation is otherwise covered. Please communicate in advance with Mr. Everson if this presents a challenge.

Observers are not allowed *except* in final rounds. This includes parents, peers, coaches, and others. *No one* but competing students and assigned judges are allowed in prelim and early elim rounds. Peers, parents, and coaches are welcome to watch final rounds as long as that doesn't conflict with another tournament obligation. (*i.e.* Someone assigned to judge Declamation finals should not expect to be able to observe Extemp finals, nor should a student in Poetry Finals *leave* the room after performing simply because they wanted to watch Humorous finals.)

As with all MHSAA tournaments hosted on high-school campuses, **outside food** is not allowed. Please do not "soccer-parent" snacks onto campus. Please do not order food to be delivered nor allow your students to order food deliveries. We are confident that you will find the food on hand for judges and students adequate and delicious. If you have concerns about food during the tournament or concerns about dietary needs in advance, please contact Mr. Everson.

Judges must have tabroom.com accounts and are expected to submit ballots with feedback online. **Spoken critiques, feedback, and disclosure during the tournament are not allowed.** All feedback and decisions/rankings should be shared **only** on the tabroom ballot.

Entry Limits & Judge Quotas

Any student may enter a **maximum** of four events: 2 Flight A and 2 Flight B, where debate events count as a Flight A. Students may only enter **one** debate event.

Schools may enter up to 10 students in each speech event and in Congress. Schools may enter up to 6 entries in each Debate event. Additional entries may be waitlisted and will be accepted dependent on available space.

Schools must provide one debate judge for every 2 entries (or fraction thereof) in PF, LD, and CX. Schools must provide one speech judge for every 6 entries (or fraction thereof) in Speech and Congress.

Judges covering PF, LD, or CX are obligated from Round 1 Friday until the 1st elim round after a school has finished competing in debate. (Thus, a school with no debate breaks is still obligated to provide judges for the first elim debate. A school knocked out in semis is still obligated to provide judges for finals.)

Judges covering Congress are obligated from Session 1 Friday through the Final Session on Saturday morning, but will likely be asked to judge *other* debate events, just as some other debate judges will be asked to judge Congress.

Judges covering PF, LD, or CX will likely also be used to judge speech on Saturday. Entering a judge in debate indicates that they are covering your debate obligation. It does not guarantee that they will only judge debate.

Judges covering Speech are only obligated on Saturday, from Round 1 (9:00am) through elimination rounds. They may also be asked to judge debate elim rounds. Entering a judge in speech indicates that they are covering your speech obligation. It does not guarantee that they will only judge speech.

A single judge may cover **both** a Congress and a Speech obligation, but they will be obligated to stay for the entirety of the tournament. A single judge may **not** cover both Congress and PF/LD/CX, nor may they cover both Speech and PF/LD/CX.

Please remember that judging is an obligation of our whole Speech & Debate community, not the sole obligation of the host or any other single school. The more participation we have in judging, the better the tournament experience for everyone.

Summary of All Events

Debate(Friday Prelim, Sat Elim)	Flight A Speech (Sat Only)	Flight B Speech (Sat Only)
PF Debate (MS, Nov. & Vars. LD Debate (Nov. & Vars.) Policy Debate Congress	Duet Acting Dramatic Interpretation Impromptu Speaking (MS/HS) Informative Speaking Program Oral Interpretation Prose Interpretation (Nov/Var)	Declamation Duo Interpretation Extemp. Speaking (Nov/Var) Humorous Interpretation Original Oratory Poetry Interpretation (Nov/Var) Middle-School Interpretation

Debate Schedule Details

All debates will start on Friday at 5:00pm.

Public Forum & Lincoln-Douglas will have a maximum of 5 rounds on Friday. We will lag-pair (Rounds 1-2 randomly paired, round 3 matched on round 1 records, round 4 matched on rounds 1-2 records, round 5 matched on rounds 1-3 records.

Prelim records of 3-2 or better will break to elims on Saturday. If there are 6 or fewer entries in a division, a Round Robin will be held Friday with no elims on Saturday.

Policy will have a maximum of **3 rounds** on Friday. Saturday's policy rounds will depend on entry numbers. A larger field may warrant a fourth prelim and elim rounds on Saturday. Smaller entry numbers will be adapted to a Round Robin format. Exact details of the Policy debate schedule will be determined once registration has closed.

Congress will have 2 prelims on Friday and a Final on Saturday morning. Prelim chambers will be capped at 18 students each. A maximum of 16 will break to finals. Any necessary adjustments to those numbers or the Congress schedule will be announced after registration closes.

Friday, Oct 23

5:00pm	PF, LD	Round 1	Policy/Congress	Rd 1/Session 1
6:00pm	PF, LD	Round 2		
6:45pm			Policy	Round 2
7:00pm	PF, LD	Round 3		
7:00pm			Congress	Session 1 ends
7:30pm			Congress	Session 2
8:00pm	PF, LD	Round 4		
8:30pm			Policy	Round 3
9:00pm	PF, LD	Round 5		
9:30pm			Congress	Session 2 ends

Debate Topics

Lincoln-Douglas - Sep-Oct 2026 NSDA Topic*

Resolved: Outer space colonization is a moral imperative.

*Note that we have used the Novice National Service topic in years past. ***This year***, the National Service topic will ***not*** be used. All Sep-Oct tournaments in Mississippi have agreed to use the Space topic for both Novice and Varsity LD.

Public Forum - Sep-Oct 2026 PF Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.

We will follow the standard MHSAA/NSDA use of the coin flip for speaker order and sides in Public Forum.

Policy - 2026-2027 Policy Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

Congress

Find the MHSAA 2026-2027 Legislation [here](#).

Prelims 1: C, L, V, R Prelims 2: N, K, B, U Finals: Q, M, J, A

Speech Schedule Details

Speech events are broken into Flights A & B (see divisions above).

Events with **13 or more** entries will have two prelims, semis, and finals.

Events with **7-12 entries** will have two prelims and finals.

Events with **6 or fewer entries** will have three prelims and no elimination rounds.

Saturday, October 24

8:00am	Elim Debates Begin (Congress Finals, PF/CX/LD Quarters or Semis as necessary)
9:00am	Speech Round 1, Flight A
10:00am	Extemp Prep Begins
10:30am	Speech Round 1, Flight B
11:30am	Elim Debates (PF/LD Semis or Finals as necessary)
12:00pm	Speech Round 2, Flight A
1:00pm	Extemp Prep Begins
1:30pm	Speech Round 2, Flight B
2:30pm	Elim Debates (Finals if necessary)
3:00pm	Speech Semis, Flight A
3:30pm	Extemp Prep Begins
4:00pm	Speech Semis, Flight B
5:00pm	Speech Finals, Flight A
5:30pm	Extemp Prep Begins
6:00pm	Speech Finals, Flight B
7:30 pm	Awards Ceremony

Middle School Events

Three events will be offered:

1. **Public Forum Debate** (offered **Friday** with possible elim rounds on Saturday). We'll follow all the usual MHSAA rules for Public Forum, including coin flips for speaker order and sides. The Sep/Oct NSDA topic will be used.
2. **Impromptu Speaking** (offered Saturday, Flight A). We'll follow all the usual MHSAA rules for Impromptu Speaking.
3. **Middle-School Interpretation** (offered Saturday, Flight B). This event will function as a combination of the typical high-school events of Declamation, Poetry, Prose, Humorous, and Dramatic. Students should choose and perform ONE piece of literature that would fit one of those high-school events. (In Poetry, multiple poems may be used.) Students will be judged on the overall effectiveness of their presentation and not held to specific rules of the high-school events.
 - a. **Memorization** is encouraged, but not required. Judges will be instructed not to penalize students for using a script. If a script is used, it may be in a typical prose/poetry binder or in any other print format. Using a script from a phone or other electronic device is strongly discouraged.
 - b. **Movement and blocking** are allowed, but not necessarily required. Students may choose to present in the typical Prose/Poetry fashion with limited movement below the waist or in the typical HI/DI/Declamation fashion with movement around the front of the room.
 - c. Other than those points above on Memorization and Movement, students should generally follow the guidelines of the high-school events below that best fit their selected speech or piece of literature.
 - d. No **original** literature written by the student may be performed. Selections may be from plays, monologues, novels, poetry collections, speeches, articles, or other sources, but should **not** be written by the student.

Deadlines

Student entry deadline is **Monday, October 19**, at 11:59pm (Central).

Judge entry deadline is **Tuesday, October 20**, at 11:59pm (Central).

Please help us plan ahead by registering well before those, however!

Other Things

I've probably forgotten something important. You probably have more questions. Please let me know either by emailing or texting me! (601.376.9214)