

Dear Coaches:

You are cordially invited to **The BOONE BLIZZARD BLOWOUT!** We are delighted to host you for A terrific tournament at **Boone County High School** in Florence, KY, on **Saturday, December 5th**.

CATEGORIES

We will be offering all KHSSL speech events, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Debate, and a super fun event called improvisational storytelling (see sample ballot with rules below). Please visit the KHSSL handbook for rules.

ENTRIES

Each tournament will be offering **unlimited** entries; however, only the top three scores in each event will count toward sweepstakes. In each tournament, students may triple in IE, but be aware that we will not hold rounds for a late performer. Students entering debate may only enter ONE event for that tournament. It is recommended that students enter no more than 2 limited prep events. Each entry will be charged $6, with Policy, Duo Interpretation and Improvisational Duo charging $12.

ENTRY DEADLINE is 11:55 pm Eastern on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

You may drop online for free until noon EST on Thursday, December 3rd. After that, drops will be $10. Adds will be allowed based on space in our school and judging quota. Substitutions are free. Please let us know about any changes before Saturday if possible.

JUDGES

Speech: You must provide one judge for every SIX entries or fraction thereof; 6 entries = one judge, 7 entries = 2 judges, etc. Remember that Duo Interpretation and Improvisational Duo count as 1 entry here.

LD/PF/EXD: you must provide one judge for every TWO entries or fraction thereof.

In the event you cannot provide the required number of judges, you may hire judges for $30 each. Schools must provide at least one judge and can only hire two judges. We want your judges, not your money! Any judging drops will be charged $50 each. Your judges should be familiar with the KHSSL rules and ballots. Of course, there will be lots of goodies in our hospitality room for coaches, judges, and drivers!

A NOTE ON DEBATE EVENTS

My students will only be entered in debate events if entries are needed to create suitable competition for everyone involved. Those students who are entered will be eligible for individual awards but not for sweepstakes. We will be using current topics.

LD/PF/EXD: Unless entry numbers are high to warrant elimination rounds, we will only run preliminary rounds and determine placings using typical tiebreakers. This way, students are guaranteed more rounds of competition. Current topics can be found on the NSDA website.

IMPROVISATIONAL STORYTELLING

This fun limited-prep event runs similar to Improvisational Duo in procedure, except that the student has only 2 minutes to prepare, and no props are allowed. The first round story must be told in first person, the second round in third person, with finals being the student's choice. A sample ballot is at the end of this invitation. Note that this event does not count toward sweepstakes due to KHSSL rules.

AWARDS

We will be giving awards to the top 6 performers in each speech event. Next out awards will be given to the 7th place performer in each event. Debate awards will be given to the top four. Speaker awards may be given based on the number of entries. We will be offering separate debate and speech sweepstakes awards, awarding the top 3 schools in each.

FOOD

Pizza and other general edible and drinkable goodness will be available for student purchase at the school. We will have both breakfast and lunch items, and are cash only.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Registration 7- 8:00am Eastern

SPEECH	DEBATE
8:30 Round I (draw 8:00)	8:00 Round I
10:00 Round II (draw 9:30)	9:30 Round II
11:30-12:00 Lunch Break	11:00 Round III
12:00 Round III (draw 11:30)	12:00-12:30 Lunch Break
2:30 Final (draw 2:00)	12:30 Round IV
4:30 PM Awards	

HOW TO ENTER

Please register online at www.tabroom.com. Select the KY league, register your school, then register for this tournament. If you have any questions regarding the process, please let me know. Hope to see you on December 5th!

AED INFORMATION TO COMPLY WITH NEW KENTUCKY LAW:

- Destination/Venue: Boone County High School
- Venue Address: 7056 Burlington Pk. Florence, Ky 41042
- Person or email contacted at venue to discuss EAD: Mrs. Erin Tharpe
- Position/Title of person contacted: Forensics Team Coach & English Teacher
- Is there an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on site? YES
- If yes, where is it located: (1)Entrance to cafeteria/commons, (2) Main Lobby next to main office, (3) Freshmen/lower rear hallway outside school resource officer's office, (4) Mounted outside of Athletic Trainer's office, (5) Main gymnasium at door leading out to turf
- Does the venue have an emergency response team (ERT)? NO

Sincerely,

Erin Tharpe, Head Coach
BCHS Speech/Debate
Cell: 859-866-7571
School: 859-282-5655 ext. 30143
erin.tharpe@boone.kyschools.us

K.I.S.S.L., Inc. Evaluation Sheet

IMPROVISATIONAL STORYTELLING

Code _____ Contestant's Name _____

---------- Tournament (Circle One) ---------- ---------- Round (Circle One) ----------

Invitational Regional State I II III Semis Final

Topic _____

Signature of Judge _____ Date _____

I. Choice of Material Used in Story:

II. Presentation of Selection:

III. Effectiveness of Selection (Impact on Audience):

IV. Additional Comments:

Please rank and rate each contestant in the round. A rating of 100 **must** be assigned to the most effective contestant, and that contestant must be ranked first. The contestant ranked second must have the next highest rating below 100, etc., with no two contestants receiving the same rank or rating. The rating scale is 70 to 100, but a low rating of 70 **does not** have to be given.

Rank ____ of ____ in round Rating (70-100) Performance Time: ____

(Criteria For Judging On Reverse Side)

Summary of Rules

The maximum time for Improvisational Storytelling is **six minutes** and the minimum time is **three minutes**. No introduction is required. There is a **no grace period** for this event, and students who exceed the time limit must be dropped in rank/rating in preliminary rounds and disqualified in semi-finals and finals. Each student is allowed **two minutes** of prep time. Students will remain outside the room until it is their time to speak and then prepare in the room. The judge should clarify with the students before they begin how time signals will be communicated and must then give hand signals as the contestants are performing to help them stay within the time limit. The story may be either humorous or serious, but must be told using appropriate point of view. Round I must be told in first person, Round II in third person, and the student may choose point of view for Round III and Finals. No props, make-up, costumes, or lighting are permitted.

Criteria For Judging

I. Choice of Material Used in Story:

   A. Did the student take a creative approach to developing the story?

   B. Did the student establish the mood and/or meaning of the selection?

II. Presentation of Selection

   A. Sense of performance and presence: Was the student in control of the performance and the audience?

   B. Use of the voice: Did the student demonstrate good speech habits as they would pertain to the story?

   C. Use of the body: Did the student develop character posture, facial expressions, and gestures appropriate to the story and to the characters in the story?

   D. Clarity of the narrative: Were various incidents clearly related?

III. Effectiveness of Selection

   A. Was the story suitable to the performer?

   B. Was it a unified piece which had a plot and emphasized narration, rather than excessive dialogue?

   C. Did the story have a clear and resolute ending?

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PREJUDICE TOWARD CHOICE OF MATERIAL TO PENALIZE A WELL-DONE PERFORMANCE.