Lewis & Clark College

0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road
Portland, Oregon 97219-7899
Phone 503-768-7000
www.lclark.edu

November 7, 2026

Friends,

On behalf of the Lewis & Clark College River Otters, I cordially invite you and your forensics squad to participate in the 15th annual Jean Ward Invitational. The tournament will take place on the campuses of Lewis & Clark College and Lake Oswego High School, January 16-17, 2027. On Saturday, open competition will be held on the L&C campus, while novice competition will be held on the Lake Oswego HS campus. On Sunday, all events will be held on the Lewis & Clark campus.

We will offer competition in debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum) and individual events. This year, the tournament will be a finals bid tournament for the Tournament of Champions in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum (semifinals for silver), as well as a qualifying tournament in speech.

I look forward to continuing our renewed tradition of hosting high school competition on our campus, and I expect a weekend of great competition and community. Please let me know if there is any additional information that you need or if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Gantt
Director of Forensics
Lewis & Clark College
Office: 503-768-7729
E-mail: jgantt@lclark.edu

Tournament Registration

All entries will be accepted using the tabroom.com website. Please use that site as a resource not only for entering the tournament but also for making changes to your entry and finding important tournament announcements. Registration will open at 4:30 PM on November 19.

Entry Deadline: Friday, January 8 at 11:00 pm (Pacific). Additional entries will not be accepted after this deadline. New schools will not be allowed to register after this time period.

Drop Deadline: Monday, January 11 at 11:00 pm (Pacific). After this deadline, fees will be calculated and drops will be charged full entry fees. Adds will not be allowed after this deadline.

Please report any drops after the drop deadline directly to Joe Gantt (jgantt@lclark.edu or by cell at 806-777-9904).

***Novice Designation*:** All divisions noted as novice divisions will utilize OHSSL guidelines for novice eligibility, i.e., students must be in their first full year in competition on the high school level. In team events, both partners must be novice eligible. **Please note that all preliminary rounds in the novice division (aside from novice policy) are being held at Lake Oswego High School.**

***Entry Caps*:** We want to make sure that we have enough space to accommodate all schools who wish to attend. Therefore, we are capping entries at 3 entries per event during the initial registration process. **Please note that we will drop all TBA entries on December 15 at 4:30 PM.**

We will notify coaches of relaxation of these entry caps and take entries off of the waitlist as space allows.

In individual events, students may enter **two** events total. Policy debaters may not enter individual events.

***Judging*:**

Each debate judge covers two debate entries, and each individual events judge covers six speech entries.

There will be four judge pools:

Novice judge (all events)
Policy judge
Varsity Debate judge (PF, Parli, LD)
Varsity Speech judge

Judges may only be entered in tabroom in one category. Upon emailed request to jgantt@lclark.edu, a varsity debate judge can also be entered into the varsity speech pool.

All speech judges are expected to be available until finals. All debate judges are expected to be available through at least the first two elimination rounds and then one round past the elimination of their school's entry.

Should space limitations cause us to drop any entries, programs with uncovered entries will be asked to drop first.

Fees:

School Fee:	$50.00
Debate Fee:	$35.00 per team entry; $20.00 per individual entry
Individual Events:	$12.00 per slot
Uncovered Debate:	$75.00 per team
Uncovered IE:	$15.00 per slot

Awards:

Awards will be presented to all finalists in individual events and all quarterfinalists and above in debate events.

Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top five schools according to the following formula:

Debate Events: 1st place = 20, 2nd place = 15, semifinalist = 10, quarterfinalist = 5
Individual Events: 1st place = 12, 2nd place = 10, 3rd place= 8, all other finalists = 3

Debate Events:

Parliamentary Debate: Topics will vary per round (three topics per round, each team will get to strike one topic). Resolutions will focus on policy and value issues in the general area of current events. The division will use the 7-8-8-8-4-5 format. OHSSL rules will be followed with the following exception- the first two rounds will be pre-set.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Debates will be held on the 2027 Jan/Feb NSDA LD topic. The division will use the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format. OHSSL rules will be followed with the following exceptions: the first two rounds will be pre-set, and debaters will have a limited number of strikes, and debaters are allowed to use the internet only for the purpose of sending/receiving evidence documents.

Policy Debate: Debates will be held on the 2026-27 policy topic. This division will use the 8-3-5 format with 5 minutes of prep time for each team. OHSSL rules will be followed with the following exceptions: the first two rounds will be pre-set, and debaters will have a limited number of strikes, and debaters are allowed to use the internet only for the purpose of sending/receiving evidence documents.

We will also host a novice (PUDL) division of policy debate, **open to all schools**. It will utilize the NDCA Novice packet. **Novice policy will be held on the Lewis & Clark campus.**

Public Forum: Debates will be held on the 2027 January public forum topic. The division will use the 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-3-2-2 format (with 3 minutes of prep time for each side). NSDA rules will be followed.

Student Congress will be offered as a Friday night event with no entry caps. More information regarding packet submissions will be added at a later point.

Speech Events:

For all speech events: no speaker may use materials from the same source that the speaker used in any contest previous to the current school year.

Students may not use the same material or cuttings from the same source, in Dual Interpretation and any other interpretation event at this tournament.

This tournament will follow OHSSL guidelines/rules for each of the speech events, though preliminary rounds will be judged by a single judge. Please refer to the Oregon High School Speech Handbook for additional guidelines for each event. Time signals will be given only in extemp, impromptu and radio commentary.

Miscellaneous:

The Lewis & Clark campus will be on winter break, so parking should be plentiful. A campus map is available here: https://www.lclark.edu/live/files/7676-campus-map

We recommend parking in (D) or (E) lots.

As we are on winter break, we are working with food service on campus to determine specific hours that the Fields Dining Hall will be open. When that information is available, it will be sent to all participants.

A list of hotels offering special rates for Lewis & Clark visitors is available at http://www.lclark.edu/visit/places_to_stay/.

JEAN WARD INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 15

4:00	Congress Session 1
6:15	Congress Session 2

Saturday, January 16 (Open at Lewis & Clark, Novice at Lake Oswego HS)

8:00	LD 1		
8:15	PF 1		
8:30	Parli 1		
10:00	PF/LD/Parli 2	9:00	Policy 1
11:30	Extemp Draw	11:15	Policy 2
11:45	Speech 1		
1:30	PF/LD/Parli 3	2:00	Policy 3
3:00	Extemp Draw		
3:15	Speech 2	4:30	Policy 4
4:45	PF/LD/Parli 4		
6:30	Extemp Draw		
6:45	Speech 3		

Sunday, January 17 (All at Lewis & Clark)

8:00	Extemp Draw		
8:15	IE Semifinals/Finals	8:00	Policy 5
9:30	PF/LD/Parli 5 (First Novice Elim)		
11:00	Extemp Draw	10:15	Policy Octos
11:15	All remaining IE Finals		
12:45	PF/LD/Parli Octos	12:45	Policy Quarters
2:45	**AWARDS (Flanagan Chapel)**		
4:00	PF/LD/Parli Quarters	4:00	Policy Semis
5:30	PF/LD/Parli Semis	6:15	Policy Finals
7:00	PF/LD/Parli Finals		