



Yale Debate Association Seventeenth Annual Invitational Tournament

May 5, 2009

Dear Speech and Debate Coach:

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2008-2009 EXECUTIVE

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The Yale Debate Association (YDA) is an undergraduate organization of Yale University in New Haven, CT. Every year, the YDA travels throughout the United States and the world to compete in Parliamentary Debate.

To encourage speech and debate activities among high school and college students, the YDA hosts several tournaments each year. Our four annual tournaments are the Yale Invitational Tournament, the Adam's Cup Tournament, the Osterweis Tournament, and the Yale College Intervarsity Tournament.

On behalf of the Yale Debate Association, we invite you and your team to the seventeenth annual Yale University Invitational Tournament from Friday, October 2, 2009 to Sunday, October 4, 2009. The tournament will consist of competition in Varsity and JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, Congressional Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and six Speech events.

Year after year, our tournament grows and gains national recognition for its high level of competition. Last year, 120 schools from 21 states helped to make the sixteenth edition a huge success. The Yale tournament provides a wonderful opportunity to gain some early season practice and compete against schools from across the nation. Like last year, we expect quarter-finalists in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas, octofinalists in Public Forum debate, and Congressional Debate Super Session participants to earn a bid to the Tournament of Champions. This year, we are also pleased to introduce Parliamentary Debate to our tournament. This new division will benefit from the judging expertise of the Yale Debate Association, the top-ranked college parliamentary team in the nation. We hope that this division will also help to open the tournament to new schools.

Tab will be directed again by Chris Palmer of Newton South in Massachusetts. Currently slated to join us are Jim Menick of Hendrick Hudson (NY) and Joe Vaughan of Scarsdale (NY) in LD tab, Jenny Cook of the University School (FL) in Public Forum, and Sheryl Kaczmarek of Newburgh Free Academy (NY) in Policy. Speech tab staff includes Jonathan Chavez and Lisa Honeyman of Newton South (MA), Dave Yastremski of Ridge (NJ), Barb Giuliano of St Joseph's Prep (PA), and many others. Mike Vigars of Trinity Prep (FL) will again direct Congressional Debate. All are nationally recognized and successful tab coordinators. For the past decade, they have been essential to our ability to run a smooth tournament.

The information provided with this invitation and on our tournament website, <http://yale.tabroom.com>, should answer any questions that you may have about our tournament. If you need additional assistance, please email us at yale@tabroom.com. Please don't hesitate to contact us if your team is experiencing financial difficulties.

Best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing many of our old friends in New Haven in October.

Sincerely,

Pam Brown *Austin Kase*

The 2009 Yale Invitational Tournament

This year's competition will feature the events described below. Speech events will be broken into two groups. Group A will consist of HI, OO, and DI. Group B will consist of Extemp, Duo, and OI. These are different groupings than in years past. A participant may enter up to two different speech events in each group. Debate or congress students may not double enter.

Varsity and Junior-Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The resolution will be the September-October National Forensic League topic. Both LD divisions will follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format. Debaters will have 5 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, adjusted points, total points, double-adjusted points, judge variance, opponents' record, and flip of a coin, in that order. The break will be to double-octafinals in Varsity and JV LD debate.

Students in 9th or 10th grade, and those in 11th grade with less than two years debating experience, may enter JVLD, but should also feel free to enter VLD. Students with more than two year's experience and those in 12th grade should enter VLD. Any student who broke at a national tournament in JVLD last year should enter VLD. We strongly encourage coaches to choose divisions with the educational purpose of debate in mind. That purpose is hurt if overqualified debaters compete in JV. Students shouldn't enter JVLD to "win trophies"; JVLD is a learning division.

Policy Debate

There will be a single, open division of policy debate using the 2009-2010 NFL resolution. Teams will give 8-minute constructive speeches, 3-minute cross-examinations, and 5-minute rebuttals, and will have ten minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken using the same criteria as Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The break will be to quarterfinals (If the field is large enough, an octafinal round may be added). There will be no policy rounds on Friday night; instead, we will host an open room with wifi available for collaborative tournament prep. This room will stay open during Saturday rounds.

Public Forum Debate

There will be a single, open division of public forum debate. We will follow all of the NFL rules for the event as they stand for the start of the school year. The tournament will be using the NFL topic for October of 2009. Ties will be broken using the same criteria as Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The event will break to double octafinals.

Parliamentary Debate

There will be a single, open division of parliamentary debate. We will follow Osterweis style with the 4-5-5-5-2-3 format. For a full style guide, please visit <http://www.yaled Debate.org/osterweis/parli.html>. We will release the straight-link resolution fifteen minutes before the start of each round. There will be four rounds with a likely break to semifinals; the break will be determined based on size of the field.

Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will be comprised of no more than 20 members. Sunday's competition will again feature a semifinal round in the morning and a final round in the afternoon. Legislation must be emailed to yalebills@tabroom.com by 7 PM on Friday, September 18th, 2009. Legislation must include the name of the school and the author; failure to include these items will result in the rejection of the legislation. Only one item may be submitted by each registrant to a maximum of four items of legislation per school. Legislation from authors not registered for the tournament, or legislation that has not been received by that date, will not be included. Please note that Congressional Debate registration is due earlier than other divisions, as we will assign chambers and dockets and publish both on the Yale Invitational website on Friday, September 25th.

Speech Events:

Extemp, Oratory, DI, HI and Duo will follow **National Forensic League** rules and guidelines. *Oral Interpretation of Literature* will follow **National Catholic Forensic League** rules and guidelines. We will use the NCFL's guidelines for published material in interp events. The grace period will be 30 seconds for all speech events. Any IE participant who exceeds the grace may not receive a rank of 1 in the round; any further penalty will be at the discretion of the judge. A participant may only be penalized for a time violation if the judge has used a precise timing device and notes the penalty on the ballot.

Speech events will break to either quarterfinals or semifinals based on the size. Speech tabbing will be cumulative throughout the tournament. The Extemp final round will feature cross-examination in accordance with NFL rules.

All rules are subject to change. The tournament will make you aware of any changes at registration.

Judging Requirements

Teams should bring one qualified judge for every 3 LDers or PF teams, every 2 Policy teams, and every 5 Speech entries, rounded up in the case of fractional obligations. Teams with Congress entries must bring 1 Congress judge. You may not cover VLD entries with JV-only judges. Congress judges may be swapped into another judging pool; please indicate which other pool a Congress judge would like to judge if we cannot use him/her in Congress when registering. Likewise, qualified Speech judges may also be asked to judge Congress. Judges in all divisions are obligated to stay and judge one round past any round in which their students are actively competing. We will assume judges are staying past their obligation unless we hear otherwise: let us know if you are leaving.

Keep in mind that a “qualified judge” understands the activity, speaks English, and is either experienced sitting in the back of the room with a ballot or flow pad as the case may be, or else has been carefully trained by the team he or she is accompanying. A qualified judge knows how to assign ranks or wins/losses, speaker points, and knows how to fill out a ballot. Please do not try to sneak in an untrained ringer. When you provide an incompetent judge, we usually find out about it only after a number of competitors have been, in a word, shafted, while you have been basking in the glow of judging by trained or experienced judges. This does not respect us, or the community, very much at all. We’ll likely respond in kind.

We're also committed to hiring a quality pool of judging in all divisions. However, given the relatively small number of judges in the immediate New Haven area, bringing this pool to Yale is both complex and expensive. To aid us in that effort, the registration system will ask you to explicitly request judge hires. Please request early; we will not harm the quality of our tournament by oversubscribing hired judging as certain other tournaments do. **Judges dropped after registration is frozen on September 29th, even if you drop students to compensate, will incur a fee you will not want to pay.** Similarly, if you add a judge after September 29th, you still have to pay for the hires you signed up for, unless someone else should need a last-minute hire, since we’ll be paying that judge either way.

We charge for hired judges by the student, not by the whole judge. So if you have 7 IE students entered, and only 1 judge covering 5 of those students, you owe two hired judging fees. This system is more fair because it does not require you to hire a whole judge just to cover a fractional obligation. Speech or Congress hired judges cost \$50 per entry they cover (If you have 12 entries and 2 judges, your hired judge costs \$100. Congress judging carries a maximum charge of 5 entries; you do not need to hire for entries beyond your first 5). LD and PF hires cost \$90.00 per covered entry. (we pay these judges more for

judging Friday night too). Policy debate hires cost \$125.00 per covered entry. Parliamentary debate judges cost \$70.

Partial fees will also apply for your judges who are only available for part of the tournament, since we cover these slots with judging. If you can bring extra judges, we'll credit your registration fees. Please email us first: don't assume you can do this without contacting us.

We'll also be asking for judge cell numbers on registration, if you have them. Please collect as many as you can from your judges. Schools whose judges fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined \$25 for a prelim or \$50 for an elim round. Judges fined may work it off by judging rounds beyond their assignment. We don't want your money, we want judges to show up. However, schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards, and will be prevented from registering at other tournaments we run (and that's a lot of them) until those fines are paid.

To maintain a level of usability in the Varsity LD judge pool, we ask that each varsity judge be rated by you when you pre-register online. This year we will also offer **community ratings and strikes** in Varsity LD. Any Varsity LDer with proper judge coverage (yours or hired), will be able to strike 5 judges. A complete judge list will be posted as soon as possible after the closing of registration. We will note on the list the rankings given by the submitting schools. If you say your judge is a 1, that's what the list will say. Strikes must be in our hands by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30th in order to be included in Round 1. Please register your strikes on tabroom.com in registration once the judge list is posted; if you're not getting a strike option when you go into your online registration, it probably means your judging is not covered; you need to do that first.

Any LDer who has made strikes but whose own judges fail to materialize at the tournament will forfeit their strikes. Other students will be allowed to enter strikes at the registration table on October 2nd, but we can only guarantee that their strikes will go into effect by round 3. Strikes may not last through elimination rounds, but we'll see what we can do. Usually this is not a problem.

LD Community rankings

In an effort to equalize the judging pool without giving any particular advantage to anyone, we use a system of ranking the judges by popular consent. Our belief is that "A" judges should be adjudicating so-called bubble rounds (down 1 or 2), as these are the debaters still in contention for elimination rounds. "C" judges

are best placed for adjudicating where the stakes are less high. And "Bs" fit where they fit. Rather than the tab room deciding arbitrarily who's what on our own initiative, we will leave it to you. We will post a list of judges (with their 1, 2, or 3 ratings) on September 28th. Each school (not each individual) may rate each judge A, B or C. We will simply rank a judge where he or she gets the majority of votes; that is, no complicated math, just rate them as the arithmetic sees them. We set no limits; you can rank as many as you want whatever you want. Rankings are due with strikes, by Wednesday, September 30th at 9:00 PM, and may similarly be entered on tabroom.com. As for elimination rounds, we will pair as equitably as possible; every round should get the same proportion of A/B/C. Judges added to the list after 9/27 will be ranked by the tab room.

Paradigms:

Judges may or may not publish paradigms as they see fit, although we urge them to do so, but in either case, they should be willing to indicate to competitors before a round a general sense of their vision of LD (if any) or a sense of their experience, to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. Judges publishing paradigms, however, will likely be rated somewhat higher, and see better rounds, than those who do not. Be warned. If you have a published paradigm, please send us the text or a link in your registration or by email to yale@tabroom.com so we can collate them for the competitors.

NDCA Community Meeting:

As a service to the debate community, the Yale tournament will be hosting an open meeting of the National Debate Coaches Association (NDCA), to be lead by the NDCA president, Mike Bietz. Discussion will focus on general issues of interest to debate coaches. More information about the timing and agenda will be made available closer to the tournament on our website.

Registration:

All registration will be conducted online at <http://yale.tabroom.com>. We cannot accept email or phone registrations, but are happy to help you navigate the registration website. If there are any questions concerning registration, please contact yale@tabroom.com. The IE event speaker codes given to you on the online registration system will be those used in competition unless you are notified otherwise. Field reports in the debate events will also be posted in advance of the tournament.

Some schools in the past have not reported all their drops to the tournament; this harms our ability to panel rounds for good competition. Schools with *unreported* drops will be assessed a fee of \$50 per drop. Please

notify Tab immediately if a student falls ill or withdraws from competition during the tournament. We'll panic otherwise, and probably be very angry at you if we find out you knew about it. The safety of the students demands nothing less,

Results

We will publicly post the results of each round in each Debate event (PF, Policy, LD) after each round is tabbed, to serve as a double-check. Judges in debate events are encouraged, but not required, to give feedback and critiques to the debaters and disclose their decisions. However, please be sure the tab room knows the results of the round before you give extended critiques. We will use an optional text-messaging system to allow you to quickly send results into the tab room.

Ballots and Awards:

Awards will be given to all competitors reaching eliminations. Please pick them up during the awards ceremony, or arrange to have someone else do so on your behalf. **We do not mail trophies.** If we had a nickel for every time we had to repeat this, we'd all be retired right now, enjoying our very own Caribbean island. We also do not release ballots early to teams who cleared entries into elim rounds. Non-clearing teams can pick up ballots, but they won't be ready & sorted until Sunday morning after the first elim round. If you anticipate leaving early, bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope of sufficient size and postage to mail your ballots, label it with your school name, and deliver it to tab. We will put your ballots into the envelope and send it after the tournament. Please don't just staple enough money to the envelope; bring actual postage; our asking for stamps is a time/hassle thing, not a money thing.

Transportation and Housing

We have arranged for group rates with a number of nearby hotels, and have roughly 200 rooms reserved for the tournament. Unfortunately, many area hotels have increased their rates, but we were still able to negotiate substantial discounts for the tournament. These hotels range from a 2-minute walk to a 10-minute drive from Yale's campus.

Tournament Hotels:

♣ La Quinta Inn and Suites (203) 562-1111 in New Haven, CT

\$105/night

Call the sales office (ext. 1909) to reserve at this rate- ASK FOR THE YALE BLOCK

♣ Hotel Duncan (203) 787-1273 in New Haven, CT

\$75/night

♣ Clarion Hotel and Suites (203) 288-3831 (doubles and large suites available) **\$129-\$179/night**

Rooms must be reserved by 8/20/09 to receive group rate- ASK FOR THE YALE BLOCK.

♣ Marriot Courtyard at Yale (formerly the Holiday Inn) (203) 777-6221 in New Haven, CT **\$169/night**

Rooms must be reserved by 8/25/09 to receive group rate- ASK FOR THE YALE BLOCK.

The Duncan and the Marriot are within walking distance of the Yale campus. We will provide very limited free shuttles from the La Quinta and Clarion; you must register for shuttle spots online to get spots for your team. **Late requests cannot be honored.**

This hotel is within a very short driving distance. Call by August 30 to reserve at the tournament rate:

♣ Days Inn - New Haven 203/469-0343 in New Haven, CT **\$80/night**

We don't have blocks at these, but they offer their group rates. All are within a 20 minute drive of campus:

♣ Fairfield Inn 203/877-8588 in Milford, CT **\$89/night**

♣ Fairfield Inn 203/284-0001 in Wallingford, CT **\$89/night**

♣ Hampton Inn 203/874-4400 in Milford, CT (ask for Yale University rate) **\$89/night**

Unless otherwise noted, to take advantage of these rates reservations must be made by **September 1, 2009**, one month before the tournament. Our hotels fill quickly. When you call, mention the Yale Debate Tournament (unless otherwise noted). If you have any difficulties finding housing, please contact us by email. For driving instructions and information about transportation and airports, please see our website.

Caps and Limits

Yale has limited space. In order to keep the tournament manageable, we have limits in many events. Each school will be able to register five debaters in each LD division, until and unless the divisions hit their entry limits. LD will be capped at 160 debaters; JV LD may be capped lower depending on space.

If a school registers more than five LDers in either division, debaters beyond the first five will be placed on the waitlist. No schools will be given a 6th LD entry (or more) until 7 PM September 10th, to allow other schools a chance to register. Sixth slots will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis, except that a very good way to knock yourself further down the waitlist is to pester us, individually or collectively, for additional slots. Speech events are currently limited to 100 per category, though typically we are able to accommodate more entries in some events. Public Forum is initially limited to 120 entries.

Fees

♣ Lincoln-Douglas debate:	\$70 per entry	♣ Duo Interpretation:	\$50 per team
♣ Congressional Debate:	\$50 per entry	♣ All other speech events:	\$45 per entry
♣ Public Forum debate:	\$75 per team	♣ Policy & Parli Debate:	\$70 per team

Adult Supervision & Independent Entries

All students must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian, or a school-approved guardian. All registrants must provide a name and phone number for an adult contact responsible for their students in their online registration.

Safety

The tab room phone number is (617) 981-2754. Please make all your students and judges aware of this number, so they can contact Tab. This number is for on-site issues only, and will not be answered except during the tournament.

The policy of the Yale Tournament concerning consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, illegal use of controlled substances, vandalism, and destructive, and other illegal or disorderly behavior shall be: (1) to disqualify involved contestants from further competition, (2) to communicate the offending incident to the contestants' on-site guardians and/or parents, (3) to require financial reimbursement for all damages or liabilities caused directly or indirectly by the incident, (4) to notify the local legal authorities. The precise remedy or remedies selected will remain at the discretion of the tournament staff. Every student must be accompanied to the tournament by an adult empowered by the student's school and/or parent to care for that student in the event of a medical or other emergency. The contact information for this adult must be given to the Tab Room on registration. The Yale Tournament can take no responsibility for the health and safety of students beyond notifying this accompanying adult of concerns or problems as we become aware of them.

Questions: We can be reached by e-mail at yale@tabroom.com. If you need an immediate response, you may call Pam at 954-816-0722 or Austin at 609-790-2460. Our tournament website, <http://yale.tabroom.com/> also contains all of the latest information.

Registration procedures and deadlines

Wed, Aug 19 th , 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online registration begins at http://yale.tabroom.com
Tue, Sep 18 th at 7PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress bills & registrations due. Bills without authors or schools will be returned for revision. We will accept late additions in Congress by email until the 30th, but they will be added into existing chambers. No legislation from late additions will be accepted.
Fri, Sep 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress chambers and dockets released on http://yale.tabroom.com.
Sun, Sep 27 th at 11:59 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varsity LD Entries and Judge Information due. Schools not covered in their judging by now will not be eligible for community preferencing or advance strikes.
Tue, Sep 29 rd at 7 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New entries due in all events (or as events hit their caps). We fill fast so register early. • Registration fees and judge burdens are frozen. At this point, rooms are paid for, trophies bought, food ordered, and judges hired. That means you owe us the money and the judges, whether or not you even come. If you do not meet your judge obligation or drop a judge after this deadline, you will be charged for a hired judge and a \$100 fine. • LD judge strikes & ratings can be entered online. Judge strikes entered online will be guaranteed throughout the tournament; judge strikes can also be made at registration but strikes submitted then will not be guaranteed until round 3
Thu, Oct 1 st at 7 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LD judge strikes & ratings due for those using online entry • All other division's judge names & information due. We will likely run out of hired judges long before this; be sure to request hired judges early. • Drops can no longer be made online, but must be emailed to yale@tabroom.com. \$10 nuisance fines in addition to registration fees for each drop made after this time.
Fri, Oct 2 nd 2:30-4:00 PM	<p>Debate Registration. Debate drops will be fined \$15 after 2:30. Schools with debaters must register at Dwight Chapel by 4:00 PM, whether or not they have changes. Please do not come to registration early.</p>
Fri, Oct 2 nd 7:30-8:30 PM	<p>Speech & Congress Only Registration. You can register in person at Dwight Chapel, or call in to the tournament number that will be posted on our website. You must register to check in whether or not you have any changes. Schools that call in should pay their registration fees on Saturday morning at tab between 8:00-10:00 AM. Please do not come to registration early; that hampers our setup and our debate tabbing.</p>

All times and events are subject to change. In particular we will try again to accelerate LD on Sunday to have finals before awards. Any changes will not significantly affect the starting or ending times of the tournament. Coaches will be given a final schedule at registration. Please remind your competitors to be on time for their events. The rounds will begin at the scheduled time with or without them present. A 15 minute forfeit rule applies in debate.

Tournament Schedule: Congress

Friday

7:00-8:00 PM: Optional Registration if you have no LD/PF debaters Or call in to (617) 981-2754)

Saturday

8:00 AM Congress Opening Meeting
8:45-11:30 Session I
12:45-3:30 Session II
4:00-6:45 Session III
8:30 Breaks Posted in LC & Online

Sunday

8:00 AM Judge Call
8:30 – 11:15 Semifinal Session
12:00 – 2:45 Super Session
3:30 Awards & Ballot Distribution

Tournament Schedule: Speech

Friday

7:00-8:00 PM: Optional Registration if you have no LD/PF debaters Or call in to (617) 981-2754)
10:00 Preliminary Rounds Posted Online

Saturday

8:30	Speech Group A	Round 1
9:30	Extemp	Draw 1
10:00	Speech Group B	Round 1
11:30	Speech A	Round 2
12:30	Extemp	Draw 2
1:00	Speech B	Round 2
2:30	Speech A	Round 3
3:30	Extemp	Draw 3
4:00	Speech B	Round 3
5:30	Speech A	Round 4
6:30	Extemp	Draw 4
7:00	Speech B	Round 4

10:00 Elims Posted (Online & at LC Hall)

Sunday

8:30	Extemp	Draw
9:00	Speech	Quarterfinals
11:00	Extemp	Draw
11:30	Speech	Semifinals
1:00	Extemp	Draw
1:30	Speech	Finals
3:30	Awards and Ballot Distribution	

Tournament Schedule: LD

Friday- Yale Campus

2:30-4:00PM: Registration
4:45 Opening Assembly

5:00 Varsity and JV LD Round 1
7:00 Varsity and JV LD Round 2

Saturday- Hillhouse HS

8:00 Varsity LD Round 3
10:00 JV LD Round 3
12:00 Varsity LD Round 4
2:00 JV LD Round 4
4:00 Varsity LD Round 5
6:00 JV LD Round 5
8:00 Varsity LD Round 6

~10:30 LD Advancing Debaters & Judge Pool
Posted (Online & at LC Hall)

Sunday- Yale Campus

8:00 LD Double Octos
10:30 LD Octofinals
12:30 LD Quarterfinals
2:00 LD Semifinals
3:30 Awards and Ballot Distribution
4:30 LD Finals

Tournament Schedule: PFD / PARLI

Friday- Yale Campus

2:30-4:00PM: Registration
4:45 Opening Assembly
5:00 Public Forum Round 1
7:00 Public Forum Round 2

Saturday- Coopeartive Arts HS

9:00 Public Forum Round 3
9:30 Parliamentary Round 1
11:30 Public Forum Round 4
12:00 Parliamentary Round 2
2:00 Public Forum Round 5
2:30 Parliamentary Round 3
4:30 Public Forum Round 6
5:00 Parliamentary Round 4
7:00 Public Forum Double Octos

Sunday- Yale Campus

9:00 Public Forum Octos
10:00 Parliamentary Semifinals
10:30 Public Forum Quarters

12:00 Public Forum Semifinals
11:30 Parliamentary Final
1:30 Public Forum Final
3:30 Awards and Ballot Distribution

Tournament Schedule: POLICY

Friday- Yale Campus

2:30-4:00PM: Registration
4:00-8:00PM: Open Prep Room w/ Wifi

Saturday- Yale Campus

9:00 Policy Round 1
11:30 Policy Round 2
2:00 Policy Round 3
4:30 Policy Round 4

Sunday- Yale Campus

8:30 Policy Round 5
10:30 Policy Awards
11:00 Policy Quarterfinals
1:30 Policy Semifinals
3:00 Policy Finals