

The University of Houston Cougar Classic

3rd Annual, January 6-7 2016

On behalf of the Speech and Debate Program, the Honors College, and the University of Houston, we would like to invite you to the 3rd Annual Cougar Debate Classic at the University of Houston, which will be held on January 6 & 7, 2016 on the main UH campus. The tournament is a TOC semifinal bid in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy debate, and a final bid in Public Forum, and will be a TFA qualifier in all TFA events.

All events will be held on the UH campus this year. All registration will be done through Tabroom.com, which you can find here: uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com

We will offer a full complement of Individual Events, Duo & Duet, and Congressional, Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum debate. We are excited to host this tournament to showcase our team, our campus, and our commitment to a thriving culture of debate in the city of Houston and the state of Texas. Initial entries may be limited, but it is likely that the tournament will let in a substantial number of waitlist entries (please contact us with questions).

Hospitality

We are committed to providing an enjoyable and sustainable tournament experience for all participants. We have worked to ensure that students and coaches will feel at home and focus their energy on debate and competition. In striving to provide first-class hospitality to our guests, we intend to provide several amenities to competitors, coaches, and judges:

Food: The UH tournament will provide Breakfast and Lunch on Friday & Saturday and a Pizza Dinner on Friday. There will be abundant coffee at all times.

Lounge: A judge's lounge will be available for coaches and judges.

Facilities: After completing nearly a billion dollars of construction in the last few years, the UH campus will be turned over in near entirety to the Cougar Classic. We will attempt to locate each division in a particular "neighborhood" of campus, clusters of closely and conveniently located buildings. Each of the neighborhoods is only a short walk from the coaches' and judges' lounge in the Honors College. Ample free parking is available (we will send out a map prior to the tournament), and the campus is easily accessible from the Metro light rail line to campus.

Internet: UH has a robust guest network that should easily handle any Internet access needs for tournament guests.

Judging: We will have the highest quality judge pool that we can gather, and will continue to make this a priority as we have in years past.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

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The Honors College
University of Houston

Twitter: @HoustonDebate

Instagram: @uhdebate

Facebook: facebook.com/HoustonDebate/

Logistics & Rules

Location & Entries

The Cougar Classic will be held entirely at the University of Houston Main Campus this year. All entries will be made through Tabroom.com: www.uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com

Hotel

Houston has a large number of lodging options, and the campus is convenient to hotels in downtown, midtown, and Hobby Airport. We are working on adding a block of rooms to the hotel and will update the invitation with that information if one becomes available.

Judging Requirements

Teams are required to provide qualified judging to cover their entry (divisible by entries; see chart below). The tournament will offer hired judging (calculated by the whole judge), but the pool of hired judges will be limited.

Event	Entries per judge	Hired Judge Rate
Policy	2	\$200
Public Forum	4	\$200
Lincoln Douglas	4	\$200
Congress	5	\$75
Extemp	5	\$75
IEs	5	\$50

Tabroom.com will be used for all entry, pairings and balloting. All judges are required to have a tabroom.com account and all students should sign up for an account (to receive emails/texts with pairings and announcements).

Mutual judge preference will be used in CX & LD. Preferences will open on January 5th and will be due at 6 pm on January 6th. All judges are committed through the octafinal debate and one round after his/her team's elimination. Any school entered in individual events must provide a judge for every 15 individual event or Duet Acting slots. Schools with students advancing to semi-finals in speech events are required to be available for all final rounds. Judges may not count for both Debate and IE requirements.

If you know judges who would like to be hired, please share:

<http://bit.ly/uhcjudge>

Fees

Event	Entry Fee UH
Policy	\$100
Public Forum	\$80
Lincoln Douglas	\$60
Congress	\$50
Extemp	\$20
Duet/Duo	\$25
Other IEs	\$20
Novice IEs	\$15

Fees cover tournament costs and include food for all contestants and judges. Due to the unique nature of debating on campus during the break and to facilitate providing all the amenities, we have added a per student fee of \$25 to cover costs.

Drops: All drops after 11:55 pm on January 3rd will result in the loss of entry fees and hired judge fees until the day of the tournament. Drops after 5:00 pm on January 5th will result in an additional \$75 fee; no shows an additional \$100 fee. Judges dropped after NOON Wednesday, January 4th, will incur the judge fees plus a \$100 drop fee. Judges dropped on the day of the tournament will incur the judge fees plus a \$200 drop fee. Judges who fail to pick up a ballot for an assigned round will incur a \$50 fee for the first instance. A second instance will incur a \$100 nuisance fee, plus judge drop fees, plus calculated judge fees.

Teams must pay by check or cash (no credit cards). Cash is the preferred method of payment, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE PAYING JUDGE FEES. Due to previous non-payments, purchase orders will not be accepted. Failure to resolve all fees will render students ineligible for competition.

Make checks payable to the **University of Houston**.
The University's W9 is available here: <http://bit.ly/uhw9cc>

Our mailing address:

UH Speech & Debate
The Honors College
M.D. Anderson Library
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You can contact us at:

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Entries & Cross-Entry

We will freeze entries on Tabroom.com at midnight on January 2nd. Any changes after that date must be communicated to the tournament staff directly.

Congress and CX/LD/PF Debate and Congress contestants may not cross-enter into other events.

Individual Events Contestants may enter”

[Set 1] ONE event from Group A: Duo Interp, Foreign Extemp

[Set 2] TWO events from Group B: Oral Interpretation (Prose/Poetry/NPR/NPO/NDP), Original Oratory

[Set 2] ONE event from Group C: Domestic Extemp, Dramatic Interpretation, Duet

[Set 1] TWO events from Group D: Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu, POI

Contestants should make an effort to notify their judges when they are cross-entered. Tardiness to rounds may result in disqualification unless excused by the tournament director.

Rules

- TFA rules will be followed in all TFA events (see: <http://www.txfa.org/>)
- The current NSDA topics will be used in all debate events.
- Contestants must be accompanied by a coach or an approved adult sponsor.
- If entries from the same school meet in elimination rounds, we will not break brackets.
- Panels will be used in all elimination rounds.
- The use of tobacco is prohibited on the UH campus including the parking lot and sidewalks.
- Any defacing or damaging of school property will result in instant disqualification of that student. The incident will be reported to the authorities and students may be subject to discipline.

Awards

Awards will be given to all contestants in elimination rounds. Debate speaker awards will be given to the top ten speakers in each division. Three overall sweepstakes places will be awarded.

Congress

Presiding officers will be elected. Please indicate students who wish to run for PO on the entry. We will use direct questioning in finals. Congress legislation can be found in the Congress section on the TFA website at www.txfa.org. Congress legislation will be debated as follows:

Prelims: Items 1-12

Semis: Items 13-21

Finals: Items 22-30

IEs/Congress Schedule

Note: This schedule may be adjusted depending on final room scheduling arrangements. Please check back prior to the tournament for the finalized schedule.

Friday	Individual Events & Congress
8:30	IE & Congress Ballot Distribution, Extemp Draw Room Opens
9:00	Congress Swear-In
	9:30-12:30 Session 1
	1:30-4:30 Session 2
9:00	Extemp Draw: FX Round 1
9:30-11:00	IE Group A Round 1: Duo, FX
11:00-12:30	IE Group D Round 1: HI, IMP, POI
12:30	Extemp Draw: FX Round 2
1:00-2:30	IE Group A Round 2: Duo, FX
2:30-4:00	IE Group D Round 2: HI, IMP, POI
3:30	Extemp Draw: DX Round 1
4:00-5:30	IE Pattern C Round 1: DI, DX, Duet
Saturday	Individual Events & Congress
7:30	Coaches Challenge: IE Groups A & D, Congress
7:30	Extemp Draw: DX Round 2
8:00-9:30	IE Group C Round 2: DI, DX
8:30-12:00	Congress Semi-Session
9:30-11:00	IE Group B Round 1: OI, OO
11:00-12:30	IE Group B Round 2: OI, OO
12:00	Extemp Draw: FX Semis
12:30-2:00	IE Semis Set 1: Duo, HI, IMP, FX, POI
2:00-6:00	Super Congress Session
2:15	Extemp Draw: DX Semis
2:45-4:00	IE Semis Set 2: DI, DX, OI, OO
4:00	Extemp Draw: FX Finals
4:30-6:00	IE Finals Set 1: Duo, HI, IMP, FX, POI
6:00	Extemp Draw: DX Finals
6:30-8:00	IE Finals Set 2: DX, DI, OI, OO
8:30	Awards Ceremony

Debate Schedule

Friday	Debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum)
8:00 am	Round 1 (<i>Preset</i>)
10:15 am	Round 2 (<i>Preset</i>)
1:30 pm	Round 3 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
4:15 pm	Round 4 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
6:45 pm	Round 5 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
Saturday	
7:00 am	Pairings & Challenges
8:00 am	ALL: Double Octofinals (<i>LD, PF Double Flighted</i>)
10:45 am	ALL: Octofinals
12:00 pm	LD/PF: Quarterfinals
1:30 pm	CX: Quarterfinals
2:00 pm	LD/PF: Semifinals
4:30 pm	CX: Semifinals LD/PF: Finals
7:15 pm	CX: Finals