



December 1, 2016

Dear Forensics Coaches, Judges, and Participants:

On behalf of the Columbia Debate Society, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2017 Columbia Invitational, our 15th annual competition to be held at Columbia University from Friday, January 20th, 2017 to Sunday, January 22nd, 2017. Registration on Friday will begin at 4:00 PM in the lobby of Barnard Hall on Barnard's campus.

The tournament will consist of competition in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Open Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate, and six Speech events (Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation, and Oratory). We offer five prelim rounds in Individual Events, six prelim rounds in Public Forum and LD, and three sessions in Congress.

We are pleased to announce that we can provide bids to the Tournament of Champions for participants that reach finals in Lincoln-Douglas, quarter-finals in PF, and elimination rounds in IE and Extemp.

Joining us directing tab are Jim Menick, Joe Vaughan, Charlie Sloat, Marty Page, Sheryl Kaczmarek, and PJ Wexler.

This packet should answer any questions you may have about the tournament. If you need any additional information, please email us at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

We hope you have had a successful forensics season thus far, and we hope to see you in New York at the end of January!

Best,

Thomas Startz
Tournament Director



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

2017 Columbia Invitational
High School Forensics Tournament

Columbia University, January 20th-22nd, 2017
For problems during the tournament, please contact:

Tournament Director: Thomas Startz (701) 541-3407

Tab Phone Number: Ravi Maddali (925)-967-8645

Tab Phone Number: Jim Menick (914) 471-6351

Columbia University Public Safety: (212) 854-5555

Event Rules

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The resolution will be the January-February NSDA topic. Lincoln-Douglas will follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format, with 4 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, adjusted points, total points, double-adjusted points, judge variance, opponent wins, and flip of a coin, in that order. The break will depend on the number of teams registered (last year the break was double-octos). The TOC bid is at VLD *finals*.

Public Forum Debate

There will be a single, open division of PF. We will follow all NSDA rules for the event as they stand for the start of the school year and use the NSDA topic for January 2017. Debaters will have 2 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken using the same criteria as Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The event will break to double-octofinals. The TOC bid is at *quarterfinals*.

Congressional Debate

There will be a single, open division of Congressional Debate. Chambers will be composed of no more than 25 members, although 20 is the target. Sunday's competition will feature a final round in the morning, but if numbers warrant a semi-supersession will be added to the schedule. Regardless, the Supersession will be held Sunday beginning at 10 am. Advancement to the Supersession (and Semi, if any) will be by JUDGE RANKING. Supersession question time will

feature 2 minutes each for the sponsorship and first negative speeches, and 1 minute for all subsequent speeches, divided into 30-second blocks per questioner. Registration for congress will end on Tuesday, January 10th at 5pm to enable time for chamber assignments. Registration after that time will only be accepted in so far as they do not create a need for additional chambers NSDA rules and time limits will apply.

Legislation Submission

Please submit all legislation to columbiadebate@gmail.com by Monday January 9th 2017, at 6pm. Please make the subject line: “Congress Legislation Submission – [School Name, Last Name]”. Legislation must include the name of the author and the author’s school. Please include your school in the legislation file name (e.g. Columbia Bill 1.docx). Legislation should follow the templates found at <http://www.congressionaldebate.org/resources/legislation-templates>. Legislation must be submitted in a “.docx” or “.doc” form. Legislation that does not meet these requirements may be not be accepted, especially if it is close to the deadline. Submitting multiple pieces of legislation per school is permitted, but acceptance is not guaranteed. Please rank your submissions in priority order. Every effort will be made to post chamber assignments and the docket by Sunday, January 15^h, hopefully earlier. As noted above, additions to a given school's congress registration after January 10th will only be accepted (up to the regular tournament deadline) in so far as they do not create a need for additional number of chambers.

Speech Events

This year we will host six speech events: Extemp, Oratory, Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interp, and Oral Interp. Speech events will be broken into two groups. Group A will consist of Oratory, Duo and Oral Interp. Group B will consist of Extemp, Dramatic Performance, and Declamation. A student may enter up to two different speech events in each group. However, due to difficulties in tabbing students double entered in Extemp, we would request that all students registered for Extemp do not participate in the other Group B events (DP, Dec).

All speech events will follow National Catholic Forensic League rules and guidelines, including laptop usage during Extemp prep. Speech events will break to either quarterfinals or semifinals based on the size of each field. New this year, the Extemp final round will feature cross-examination in accordance with NSDA rules.

Judging Requirements and Policies

Teams should bring the following number of qualified judges:

PF:	1 judge / 3 teams
LD:	1 judge / 3 entries
Speech:	1 judge / 5 entries
Congress:	1 judge / school

Obligations

Judges in speech and congress are obligated for **all rounds**. Judges in LD and PF are obligated to judge **one round past the last full round in which their students are active**, i.e., if there is a run-off, all judges are obligated for the doubles round. A number of judges will be available for hire. Requesting a hired judge does not guarantee that the request will be accepted. **Acceptances will be sent by email via tabroom.com**

To be very clear, schools whose judges fail to appear for an assigned round will be fined. These fines are non-negotiable. Having all judges registered on tabroom.com will help them enormously, as ALL information and announcements will be via this site. We will also ask for judge cell phone numbers at registration; being able to contact judges quickly and directly will help us stay on time. PLEASE NOTE: We will be using e-balloting in LD this year. All judges for LD must have tabroom accounts and usable electronic devices. Judges in LD unable to perform accordingly will be considered no-shows, and their schools will incur the full fee for hiring judge coverage.

Competitors from any school with outstanding fines will not advance to elimination rounds, nor may the school pick up awards or ballots until they have settled their balance.

Paradigms

We expect LD judges to publish paradigms at <http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com/>

Tab & Ballots

We will publicly post the results of every round in LD and PF after each round is tabbed, to serve as a confirmation. Though judges in debate events are not required to disclose their decisions, they are highly encouraged to do so and give feedback and critiques. Pairings will be posted online. This year, we will be using e-balloting in LD. All other judges will be required to attend judge call to pick up ballots. We will post more information at the start of the tournament.

We do not release ballot packets until the tournament is complete under any circumstances. If you anticipate leaving early and would like your ballots mailed, please bring an envelope of sufficient size with postage and proper labeling (school name and address), and deliver it to TAB. Under no circumstances will we release ballots early to teams with entries competing in elimination rounds. If you would like your ballots early, see above.

Awards

All competitors reaching elimination rounds will receive awards. We will not mail trophies and encourage all schools to stay for the awards ceremony in order to receive their awards or arrange for another school to pick them up. Last year we had numerous trophies that were not picked up. If you receive an award, please come to tab and pick it up if you are leaving early. This does not mean, however, that your team will receive ballots early.

Registration

General Information

Registration will take place on the first floor of Barnard Hall on Barnard's campus. Registration for schools with Lincoln Douglas or Public Forum entries must take place before 4:00 P.M. on Friday. Schools with only Speech and Congress entries may register in person on Friday or by calling before 5:00 P.M. on Friday to confirm their registration. Those who call in advance for Speech and Congress will pay their registration fees Saturday morning. The number to call for registration is (Call 701-541-3407, Tab Phone). We also ask that coaches please check in upon arrival in the lobby of Barnard Hall. Students should go directly to one of the General Assembly (GA) rooms.

Drops

In the past, some schools have not reported all their drops to the tournament; this harms competitive balance in panel assignments. **Schools with unreported drops the day of the tournament will be assessed a fee of \$25 per round missed.**

Waitlist

To accommodate as many teams as possible as efficiently as possible, we will open registration for the tournament on tabroom.com on a waitlist-only basis. As soon as our rooms are confirmed with the university, we will clear as much of the waitlist as we can. **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE PLANE TICKETS OR MAKE NON-CANCELLABLE RESERVATIONS OF ANY SORT FOR STUDENTS UNTIL THEY ARE CLEARED:** great distance from the tournament is not a guarantee of admittance. Schools with a history of judge absences and unpaid fees will be given precedence for remaining on the waitlist until next year.

Waitlists will be cleared no sooner than a week after registration opens (and most likely a bit later). All schools registered at that point will be given equal consideration. In other words, there is no benefit to being first to sign up: fast fingers on the computer are a poor warrant for acceptance into a tournament. A fair distribution of slots to all seems to make the best sense.

Eligibility

Only teams officially representing degree-issuing high schools are eligible to register. We will not accept independent entries, camp entries, or mix-match entries from across school districts. Additionally, due to liability reasons, no teams will be accepted into the tournament without a responsible adult chaperone on the property for the duration of the tournament, unless alternative plans are made in advance with the Tournament Director. An adult, for these purposes, is defined as a college graduate twenty-one years of age or older, presumably an employee of the team's school or a parent. The contact information for this adult must be given to the Tab Room at registration.

Fees and Fines

Registration Fees

LD	\$75/entry
PF	\$90/entry
Duo	\$35/entry
Other IE	\$30/entry
Congress	\$40/entry

Hired Judge Fees

LD Hired Judge	\$75/uncovered entry
PF Hired Judge	\$75/uncovered entry
IE Hired Judge	\$40/uncovered entry
Congress Hired Judge	\$40/uncovered entry

Fines and Deadlines

Late drops/adds after Thursday 1/19 at 9:00 PM	\$10/change
Unreported drops day of tournament	\$25/round missed
Judge misses a preliminary round	\$25/round
Judge misses an elimination round	\$50/round

All payment is due at registration.

Please make all checks payable to Columbia University.

We accept cash!

Notes on Fees and Fines:

Please do not mail any checks for payment before the date of the tournament.

Schools with unpaid fines will not be given ballots or awards.

We have updated our address, so please do not use any address that you have on file from previous tournaments. If you would like our address to mail a check, email columbiadebate@gmail.com and ask for the address.

Please do not submit payments late. If you have trouble submitting your payment on time, please email the tournament director, Thomas Startz, at columbiadebate@gmail.com.

Fines are non-negotiable. Being late to a morning round due to subway malfunctions or transportation issues is not a valid excuse for missing a round.

We had problems last year with judges being a few minutes late to judge call and thus being fined. We realize that this is unfortunate, but we will assume that if judges are not at the call, then they are missing the round. For the efficiency of our tournament and to minimize surprise fees, we don't want this to happen and will be extremely clear as the requirements of judges during the tournament.

Security & Emergencies

Columbia and Barnard Campus Security has been increased for the weekend to accommodate the tournament on Broadway and throughout the Columbia Campus. We want this tournament to be a safe environment for everyone and will take all concerns seriously. **Call Public Safety at (212) 854-5555 if you experience any non-tournament security concerns, as well as the Tab's phone number 701-541-3407 for tournament related concerns.**

Schedule

Debate Schedule

Friday, January 20th, 2016

1:00-4:00	Register by Phone (Call 701-541-3407, Tab Phone)
4:00-4:30	Check in. Location: The Lobby of Barnard Hall
4:45	Open Assembly
5:30	PF&LD Round 1
8:00	PF&LD Round 2

Saturday, January 21st, 2016

7:45	Arrive at Barnard Hall through the Campus entry
8:30	PF&LD Round 3
11:00	PF&LD Round 4
2:00	PF&LD Round 5
5:00	PF&LD Round 6

Sunday, January 22nd, 2016

8:30	PF&LD	Double Octofinals
11:00	PF&LD	Octofinals
1:00	PF&LD	Quarters
2:30	PF&LD	Semis
4:00	PF&LD	Finals

3:30 Awards & Ballot Distribution

Speech Schedule

Extemp draw starts 30 minutes before round. **Judges must pick up ballots 15 minutes prior to the round.**

Friday, January 20th, 2016

1:00-5:00 Register by Phone (Call 701-541-3407)

Saturday, January 21st, 2016

7:45	Check in in the Lobby of Barnard Hall	
8:30	OO, Duo, OI	Round 1
10:30	Extemp, DP, Dec	Round 1
12:00	OO, Duo, OI	Round 2
1:30	Extemp, DP, Dec	Round 2
3:00	OO, Duo, OI	Round 3
4:30	Extemp, DP, Dec	Round 3
6:00	OO, Duo, OI	Round 4
7:30	Extemp, DO, Dec	Round 4
10:00	Speech Elims posted (Online)	

Sunday, January 22nd, 2016

8:30	Extemp Draw	Quarterfinals
9:00	All Speech	Quarterfinals
11:15	Extemp Draw	Semifinals
11:45	Speech	Semifinals
1:30	Extemp Draw	Finals
2:00	Speech	Finals
4:00	Awards & Ballot Distribution	

Congress Schedule

Friday, January 20th, 2016

1:00-5:00: Congress Reg. by phone (Call 701-541-3407, Tab Phone)

Saturday, January 21st, 2016

9:00 Congress Session 1

1:00 Congress Session 2

4:30 Congress Session 3

Sunday, January 22nd, 2016

10:00 Congress Super Session

3:30 Awards & Ballot Distribution

Merchandise

You can purchase Columbia Debate paraphernalia at the booth located in the Diana Event Oval. T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Stickers will be sold at great prices!

NYC Logistics

Parking

Overnight parking is oftentimes available through your hotel.

Meter Parking is available around the campus on Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue.

Parking Garages near Columbia

Parking St Garage Corporation

512 West 112th Street

New York, NY

(212) 865-1754

Manhattan Parking 10

2840 Broadway

New York, NY 10025

(212) 222-7813

Getting Around New York City

Travel on MTA New York City Transit requires a MetroCard. MetroCards can be purchased at MetroCard Vending Machines (MVMs) which can be found at most station entrances. Base fare for the NYC Transit System (Subway, Surface Transit excluding Express Buses) is \$2.50. Buses do not accept bills as payment for fare. The MTA also offers a One-Day Unlimited Ride [Fun Pass](#) at \$8.25/person.

Subway

The “1 Train” goes to 116th Street Columbia (make sure that you do not take the 2 or 3 trains to 116th Street—this is not the same station!). The “1 Train” (“Broadway – 7th Avenue Local”) services a number of popular NYC destinations including Lincoln Center (66 Street — Lincoln Center), Columbus Circle/Central Park South (59 Street — Columbus Circle), Times Square (42 Street — Times Square), The West Village (Christopher St/Sheridan Sq), and SoHo (Houston St). You can also connect to a number of other lines from the Train. Refer to the [Subway Map](#) for more information.

Buses

The M4, M5, M11, M60, and M104 service Columbia University. Refer to the [Manhattan Bus Map](#) for more information.

Taxis

Yellow Taxis supervised by the Taxi and Limousine Commission (which look like [this](#)) are easily flaggable from most city streets at any time of day or night.

Uber

Uber is available everywhere in NYC and requires a smartphone to call. It is usually a cheaper alternative to a taxi.

Walking

New York can be a very walkable city and we encourage you to explore! Before setting out on foot, be sure to think about the actual distance to your destination (New York City may be larger than you think, 42nd Street is pretty far from 116th Street by foot). Also, be sure to use your brain and practice basic street smarts.

Please note

Transportation services and conditions are always subject to change. We advise you be conscious of service changes and circumstances. The 1 Train of the subway system does not operate during some weekends. Note that personal transport is independent of the Tournament and Columbia University and neither is liable for transportation occurrences or damages.