



USC 2018 Damus Spring Championships

Hosted by the Trojan Debate Squad

March 2 – March 4, 2018

USC Annenberg

School for Communication
and Journalism

Dear Forensics Community,

We are pleased to invite you to the 55th Annual Trojan Championships, now formally now as the David Damus Trojan Championships. In 2007 the tournament was renamed in honor of the retired Director of Forensics at USC. The tournament will be held **Friday March 2 through Sunday March 4, 2018** on the University of Southern California campus.

We are now offering multiple divisions of policy and Lincoln-Douglas debate. The Trojan Championships is a Tournament of Champions qualifier for Lincoln-Douglas in the final round.

To make the process of entering the tournament as easy as possible, please note:
All entries will be accepted through tabroom.com. All questions should be directed to the tournament director, Kiran Dhillon, USC Director of Debate and Forensics at kkdhillon@usc.edu or at 213-821-0281.

Warmest regards,
Kiran Dhillon
Director of Debate and Forensics
Lecturer in the Annenberg School of
Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Tournament Policies

Entries

Tournament entry takes place through the tabroom.com. Schools may enter an unlimited number of teams in the four events we offer. There are only two factors that may limit entries:

- First, First-Come First Serve - We have firm room limits that will force us to monitor entries.
- Uncovered Teams (i.e., teams without judges) - Schools will be limited to one hired judge per school. Teams entered that require more than one hired judge from the tournament will be placed on a waiting list.

Drops

Drops can be entered on tabroom.com After February 26th, drops must be made by sending an email to kkdhillo@usc.edu. All late drops made after this day and time will be subject the full entry fee. This is to avoid large drop/adds which make running a tournament this size impossible. Please notify us of any change in your entry as soon as possible.

Rules Governing Debate Events

In recognition that the our sponsorship of debate is based on a community of professional educators committed to promoting a respectful form of argumentation we recognize that behaviors which belittle, degrade, demean, or otherwise dehumanize others are not in the best interest of the activity because they interfere with the goals of education and personal growth. All tournament participants should recognize the rights of others and communicate with respect for opponents, colleagues, critics, tournament hosts and audience members. Any tournament guest who cannot behave in this manner will be asked to leave the tournament. All conduct that violates USC campus policy will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Adults, who are authorized chaperones, must supervise all competitors. Entry in the tournament constitutes an acknowledgment that you authorized to represent your institution.

There will be multiple divisions of each debate event. The novice division is limited to students in their first year of competition. The JV division is limited to students who are in either their first or second year of competition. The varsity division is open to any student whose coach believes can profit from and be competitive in the division.

The format will be 8-3-5 with 10 minutes preparation time in both divisions.

LD and Policy debaters from the same school will not meet each other in preliminary rounds and brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

Note: to support the interests of all of our LD competitors, we are offering two divisions of LD debate – Novice/JV and Varsity (Open).

All LD debate students will compete on the January/ February topic. Each division will run as a separate event with separate awards and elimination rounds.

January/February - Resolved: Plea bargaining ought to be abolished in the United States criminal justice system.

Judging Requirements

Schools must provide one qualified judge for every two policy teams or fraction thereof, every three LD entries or fraction thereof.

Schools are responsible for providing judges for one round beyond the elimination of their students in each event.

We have a very limited number of hired judges. No school may hire more than 1 judge from the tournament. These judges are only available on a "first come first serve" basis. Once all hired judges are committed, we cannot add entries. If you request a hired judge, you must receive an e-mail confirmation that you have obtained that judge from the tournament. In the event that a schools judge does not show up on time or for rounds or a school cannot provide adequate judging, the tournament reserves the right to drop a schools teams from the tournament.

Schools should provide the name, event type and any school conflicts/biases your judges may have.

Judges must be designated for either Policy Debate or LD Debate. We have separate tournament pools and it is not possible to list judges in both events. Please express what events and what divisions your judges are best qualified to judge.

All debate judges are committed to judge the first elimination round, and one round past where their school has advanced in elimination rounds.

Consistent with your feedback, we will be offering a limited degree of judge preference in the varsity policy debate division.

Helpful Tips for the First Day of the Tournament

We ask all schools to check-in and confirm their entries on Friday on campus between noon and 1:30 pm. We don't have any classroom access until 3 pm, so please discourage any students or judges from entering rooms before 3 pm.

Please print a copy of our campus map to make your travel easier.
<https://web-app.usc.edu/maps/map.pdf>

Enter the campus through Gate 3, located at the corner of Figueroa Street and 35th St. on the east edge of campus. This is the entrance on Figueroa and located directly across from our new basketball facility, The Galen Center.

Entry confirmation will be held in the lobby of ASC (Annenberg School of Communication). It is located at D4 on your map.

Tournament Fees

Policy Debate Team Entry Fee	\$80.00 per team
LD Entry Fee	\$70.00 per entry
Hired Policy Judge	\$100 per uncovered team (max two uncovered teams per school)
Hired LD Judge	\$80 per uncovered student (max two uncovered students per school)
Individuals attending (not fitting into above categories)	\$60.00 per person

Fees can be paid before or at registration. All checks should be made payable to the USC Annenberg Trojan Debate Squad. USC's Federal Tax ID # is 95-1642394. Schools can pay their fees online at www.bit.ly/28C0VKe or <https://giveto.usc.edu/?fundid=9218433810,9218433810&appealcode=WANSC0001&buttongen=1&hidetop=1>

Hotel Information

We are using the USC Radisson as the tournament hotel located at 3540 South Figueroa Street. Los Angeles, CA 90007. Guests can make reservations directly by calling 213-748-4141. Please identify yourself as part of the USC Debate Tournament.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, March 3

All Coaches, Judges, & Teams report to ASC.

Pairings will be released at 2:30 pm. We do not have any classroom access before 3 pm so please keep all students and coaches outside of classrooms until that time.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Registration / ASC Lobby Drops only & final entry confirmation

2:30 pm Pairings Released for rounds 1 & 2

3:30 pm Round 1

6:00 pm Round 2

Saturday, November 4

8:00 am Pairings Released

9:00 am Round 3

11:00 am Round 4

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Round 5

4:30 pm Round 6

6:30 pm Awards Assembly

Sunday, November 5

8:00 am Pairings Released

9:00 am First elimination round in each division

12:00 pm Second elimination round

3:00 pm Third elimination round

6:00 pm Fourth elimination round (if needed)

*This schedule is subject to modification and change based on entry, judge and room constraints.

LD elimination rounds will proceed on a single flight schedule as soon as logically possible. This means you should NOT stray too far from campus, because we will push rounds quicker when we can.