

Dear Coaches:

The Chesapeake District Committee welcomes you and your team to the Big Questions Debate District Tournament, to be held on Saturday March 16th at Loyola Blakefield High School in Towson, MD.

The tournament features competition in Big Questions Debate only.  The winning entry will qualify for the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, to be held this year in June in Dallas, TX.

The topic is: Resolved: Humans are primarily driven by self-interest. Students must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

If you have any questions, you can reach Charles Donovan, District Chair at cdonovan@loyolablakefield.org.

Sincerely,

Charles Donovan, Gavin Mease, Monty Crawford, & Steve Sprouse

The Chesapeake District Committee

**Directions to Loyola Blakefield:**

Loyola Blakefield High School

500 Chestnut Ave.

Towson, MD 21204

**From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695):** Take the Charles Street exit and go south. At Chestnut, there is a light. Make a left and then make another left into the parking lot, next to the tennis courts. For additional parking or for bus parking, drive further down Chestnut Ave. and turn left into the main entrance. Keep driving past Knott Hall (the clock tower building). There are additional parking lots ahead, and down the hill. Please do not park in the loop outside of Wheeler Hall.

**From Northbound on Charles Street:** Turn right onto Chestnut Ave. This is just north of the GBMC campus, and is the next light after the Towsontown Blvd. light.

**From I-95:** Take the I-695 exit towards Towson and follow the directions above.

**Date:**

Saturday March 16th, 2019

**Eligibility:**

All participating students must be paid and registered members of the National Speech and Debate Association to enter this tournament (to register, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org)). A student that is qualified to attend NSDA Nationals in another event (by placing at the District Tournament on 2/24) is not eligible to compete at NSDA Nationals in Big Questions Debate but may still participate in this tournament.

**Entries and Registration:**

Schools may initially enter up to six entries in this event. Additional entries will be added to a waitlist, which will be cleared as space permits.

Registration is now open on the Tabroom.com web. Registration must be completed by Wednesday, March 13th at 8:00 PM (three days prior to the tournament). Online drops and name changes only (no adds) may be made until Friday, March 15th at 8:00 PM.

On the day of the tournament, check-in will begin at 8:00 AM and close at 8:30 AM.

**Supervision Requirement:**

ALL schools participating in the Big Questions Tournament must have a supervising adult who will be present for the duration of the tournament. Unattended students will not be allowed to compete. All students from a school should know who the supervising adult is, and the supervising adult should know what students from the school are in attendance, and how to contact their parents if the need arises.

**Judging Requirements:**

1 judge per every 2 entries, or fraction thereof.

Schools that are under their judging obligation will be charged $100 for a hired judge, if one is available. If a hired judge is not available, then a school will need to drop entries.

All judges are obligated for the duration of the tournament.

**Pairings:**

The first two preliminary rounds of debate will be random. The following rounds will be hi-low paired within brackets. Once an entry loses two rounds, that entry is eliminated from the tournament. The tournament will continue until only one entry remains; that entry earns the qualification to NSDA Nationals.

**Qualification:**

The last entry remaining will qualify to NSDA Nationals.

**Schedule:**

The schedule will be accelerated when possible. Please note that we WILL NOT know how many rounds are needed to finish the tournament in advance, because that depends on the number of people competing and the distribution of wins and losses. We will keep going until we have a winner, however many rounds that takes! Awards will follow the final round.

8:00-8:30 Registration in Wheeler Basement Lounge

8:45 Judges’ Meeting in Wheeler 112

9:00 Round 1

10:15 Round 2

11:45 Round 3

1:30 Round 4

3:00 Round 5

4:30 Round 6 (if needed)

6:00 Round 7 (if needed)

ASAP Awards Ceremony in Wheeler Basement Lounge

**Fees**$30 school registration
$10 per entry

$100 per hired judge

You must settle ALL fees at registration or your students will not be able to compete (the national office is extremely clear on this). Checks should be made payable to "Chesapeake NSDA District".

**Concessions**

Students may purchase breakfast and lunch and snacks in the Wheeler Basement Lounge. Judge meals are complimentary in the judge lounge.

**Additional Resources**

For additional information on the Big Questions Event, please visit the following:

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/Big-Questions-Format-Manual.pdf>

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/big-questions/>

We look forward to seeing you and your team at Loyola Blakefield on March 16th!!