

January, 2016

Dear Forensics Coach:

The Washburn Rural Forensics Squad invites you and your students to the annual WRHS Invitational Forensics Tournament to be held on Friday and Saturday, February 5-6, 2016.

On Friday, February 5, we will be offering four rounds of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. We will also hold two sessions of Student Congress. We will attempt to generate enough numbers to offer a Senate Chamber. However, if we don't get a minimum of 16 congresspersons entered in the Senate, we will collapse it into the remaining varsity houses. I would like to have at least three house chambers with "C" house being for your **novices**. Please keep this in mind when you are registering.

On Saturday, February 6, the tournament will consist of three preliminary rounds of competition followed by a final round to determine placing and State Championship Qualifiers. The events for competition will be: Original Oration, Informative Speaking, Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Prose and Poetry Interpretation. IN ADDITION, we will offer JV Domestic Extemp, International Extemp, Humorous Interpretation, and Dramatic Interpretation. NSDA rules will apply to OO, DX, IX, HI, and DI. KSHSAA rules apply to Oral Interpretation, IMP, and INF.

Please note that JV events are open to 2nd year sophomores, or Novices. Should entry numbers not warrant separate divisions in DX and IX, JV Extempers will be merged into one JV Extemp Division. If collapsed into one division, contestants will choose whether they draw from domestic or international topics.

For more information about the tournament, please refer to the enclosed "Stuff You Need to Know" sheet or contact me via email at ellistim@usd437.net. This is the best option; but, if you need to speak to me in person, you may call me at (785) 840-8393 (cell phone). The tournament will be scheduled on Thursday, February 4th, so please make your changes before this date. There will be no refunds after February 4th.

REGISTRATION

Step 1: Upon receipt of this invitation, determine if you will plan to attend and respond by email with that information. A simple "yes," or "no," is all we ask by **Thursday, January 21st**. **Please indicate tentative plans to enter Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and Congressional Debate, and/or Speech/ Interpretation events [be as specific as possible as to which events you will strive to enter.**

Step 2: Those schools **responding "yes"** will receive additional information regarding registration. In short, we will be asking for (hopefully) serious entry **numbers** by **Wednesday, January 27th**, and our plans currently include completing final registration of entries via **Tabroom.com**.

When registering via **Tabroom.com**, you will need to enter names, and events. Final Registration will be OPEN at 5:00 PM, Thursday, January 28th; and CLOSE on Wednesday, at 5:00 pm, February 3rd. In order to allow you this much time to finalize your registration, it will be very important that you complete registration via **Tabroom.com** as indicated in this time frame.

Thank you for your time and efforts and we look forward to seeing you the first weekend in February.

Sincerely,

Tim Ellis
Director of Forensics

Srividya Dasaraju
NFL President/ Tournament Chair

Peyton Emler
Co-VP

Nick Wathke
Co-VP

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. **Student participation:** This year students may enter **THREE** events, with the following caveat(s): **Do NOT enter the same student in two draw events**, i.e. you may not enter the same student in both extemp divisions. But, you may enter students in Impromptu and one extemp event.
2. **Extemp topics:** Topics will be written from current magazines and online news sources dated from December 1, 2015 to the present. These may include; Time, Newsweek, The Economist, and The New Republic. Laptops may be used in the Extemp draw room. We do not guarantee an outlet for you to use. It is first come first serve.
3. **Impromptu topics:** Topics will be drawn from the following categories. Rounds 1-3, will feature "People in the News", "Political Cartoons", and "Pop Culture." In the final round, contestants will draw one of three fortune cookies. Choose one, open it, and therein you will find your topic.
4. **Time limits:** Judges will be informed of time limits for individual events as posted below. There may or may not be a timekeeper for all rounds. If there are no timekeepers, judges will be the final arbiters of time infractions. **JV Divisions will follow the same time limits.**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Max Time</u>
Oration	10
Informative	7
Extemp	7
IMP	5
Dramatic and Humorous Interp	10
Duo Interp	10
Prose and Poetry Interp	7

5. **Awards:** Awards will be presented to the top six finalists in each event. Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top two schools. Points will be awarded to the "A" and "B" entries as follows:

5pts for a "1" rank
4pts for a "2" rank
3pts for a "3" rank
2pts for a "4" rank
1pt for all other ranks

6. **Judging:** There should be plenty of judges and your students need to know that there may be panels in some rounds. However, if the weather gets weird or there is an epidemic of flu, you may need to plan on providing a couple of rounds of judging.
7. **Fees:** \$5.00/person/event. Schools will be required to pay for all entries including "extras" requested after the entry form has been submitted. This includes "extras" given on the day of the tournament.
8. **Refunds:** Refunds will not be given for cancellations after 5:00 pm, Wednesday, February 4, 2015.
9. **Performance Order Expectations:** Any student who does not perform within the time limits of the round as posted will not be allowed to perform or will receive the last rank in the round. This is at the discretion of the tournament director.

THOSE CONTESTANTS ENTERING EXTEMP: All extempers will be expected to perform in the order as posted. They should then arrange to participate in additional event(s) either before their scheduled "draw" time, or after their scheduled speaking time.

10. The WRHS forensics coaches reserve the right to resolve any problems and/or conflicts by whatever means they deem appropriate.

11. **Finals:** Finals will be CUMULATIVE.

Additionally, there will be a 3-minute rapid-fire cross-examination period during finals in Extemporaneous Speaking. Speaker #6 will cross-examine speaker #1, speaker #1 will cross-examine speaker #2, etc.

Contestants will be assigned an order to perform. Be aware it may not be in the order of preliminary round placement. (If required, every effort will be made to avoid a speaker cross-examining another speaker from his/her school.)

12. Tab is closed. Ballots will be made available ASAP in a classroom very near TAB.

Since many of you anticipate some form of ongoing "Google" type document, information will be provided later as to how we will achieve this during this year's tournament.

13. **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS AND PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE TOPICS:**

The LD Topic that will be debated is the NSDA topic announced for **January and February 2016:**

Resolved: In the United States, private ownership of handguns ought to be banned.

The PFD Topic that will be debated is the NSDA topic announced for **February 2016:**

Resolved: The United States federal government should adopt a carbon tax.

PROJECTED SCHEDULE:

Friday: February 5th

Saturday: February 6th

Registration: by 3:15 PM.

Registration: by 8:15 AM.

Public Forum and LD Debate

Rd 1 3:30

Rd 2 4:30

Rd 3 5:30

Rd 4 6:30

Rd 1 Draw @ 8:00

Rd 1 8:30

Rd 2 Draw @ 9:45

Rd 2 10:15

Rd 3 Draw @ 11:30

Rd 3 12:00 noon

Finals Draw @ 1:30

Finals @ 2:00

Congressional Debate

Session 1: 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Session 2: 5:45 – 7:45 pm

Voting 8:00 pm

REGISTRATION REMINDERS

ONLY schools that email Tim Ellis (ellistim@usd437.net) with information regarding (1) their intention to participate, and (2) indication as to types of events the school plans to participate in [LD, PFD, Congress, Speech/Interp: Identify specific events] by Thursday, January 21st will receive additional information regarding electronic registration, etc.

We will seek very sincere numbers by late Wednesday, January 27th. We will appreciate it if you would reasonably over-estimate your entry, rather than come back later and need more entries. [These numbers will be extremely important to us as we continue to recruit judge.]

We will most likely be asking for specific names and events using *Tabroom.com* beginning at 5:00 pm, Thursday, January 28th, through at 5:00 pm, Wednesday, February 3rd. You will receive more information regarding this process later if you are planning to attend our tournament this year.

