

We cordially invite you to attend the 2016 Washburn Rural Invitational Debate Tournament, to be held on September 16th and 17th. The tournament will feature three divisions: Varsity, Open, and Novice.

Varsity division will offer a mixture of judges, the majority of whom will have experience judging debate or with debating, many of whom would be considered flow judges. We will make every attempt to balance judges so that each team sees a variety of judging preferences and experience levels. We hope to again make round two an all-coaches round for judging, although the size of this division may preclude our being able to provide a coach in every single room. There will be six preliminary rounds of debate in this division, and it will break to quarterfinals, with, semifinals and finals to follow. Medals and trophies will be awarded to the top 8 teams and top 10 speakers in this division. Varsity is a designated DCI division. The top 16 teams will receive bid points toward qualifying for the Debate Coaches' Invitational in January.

Open division is meant for those students who are less experienced and/or less technical than the varsity division. Fourth year debaters should probably not be debating in this division, but there are some whose skill levels might appropriately place them here. Please don't load up this division with kids who belong in varsity division. We trust that coaches will fairly evaluate the abilities and talents of their debaters. Open division will feature six preliminary rounds, and will then break to quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. In this division, trophies will be awarded to the top 4 teams, and medals to the top 8 teams and the top 8 speakers.

Novice division will take place on **Saturday only** and will be limited to those students who have not participated in debate prior to this season. It will feature five rounds of competition. The top 3 teams will receive trophies; the top 8 teams and the top 8 speakers will receive medals.

All divisions will be power-matched, with two pre-set rounds. Sweepstakes will be based on the school record with the best four (4) team records in the tournament **with at least 2 entries in varsity division**.

Each school will be allowed 4 entries total, in any combination. We tend to fill quickly, so please register your entries as soon as possible. We are limited to a total of 160 teams. Entry fees are \$6.00 per team – **or whatever your tournament charges for entry fees!** If you pay us \$6 per team, expect to receive from us \$6 per team if Washburn Rural attends your tournament. If you charge more for your invitational and expect us to pay the increased price, we would ask that you reciprocate by paying that entry fee back to us. **Hosting is a reciprocal service.**

Enclosed is a copy of our tournament regulations. If you would like to enter our tournament, **please do so online. We will NOT accept entries via phone or email. Registration this year will be in via Tabroom.com:**

**Tabroom.com registration will “open” at 6:00 pm,
Thursday, August 25, 2016.**

When registering, PLEASE fill out all requested information.

Registration will “close” at **6:00 pm, Friday, September 9th.**

After 6:00 pm, Monday, September 12th, you may no longer move teams from division to division. *If you need to drop a team from one division, you can request consideration of adding a team in a separate division, but this will place the team in question onto the tournament “wait list”.*

Coaches will have access to “drop” entries and/or adjust names through **6:00 pm, Wednesday, September 14th.**

When registering, you may request additional teams. Historically, we have **NOT** allowed more than 6 teams from any one school. When determining who will receive extra teams, we first look to honor requests from Flint Hills NSDA District schools that participate in NSDA qualifying events, and then at schools which have allowed Washburn Rural extra entries into their tournaments.

Entries above our 160 maximum will be “wait listed”. We will communicate with individual schools regarding “wait listed” teams in the event that we receive “drops” in a timely manner and schools can fill those slots.
Drops on or after September 14th will be non-refundable.

We are looking forward to seeing you as the season begins.

Sincerely,
Cindy Burgett and Tim Ellis
Washburn Rural High School Debate Coaches

Hailey Robertson and Serena Peter
Tournament Directors

Tournament related questions: Email: burgecin@usd437.net School phone: (785) 339-4234
Tabroom.com related questions should be sent to Steven Davis @ davisste@usd437.net .

1. The resolution to be debated is **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic and/or diplomatic engagement with the People's Republic of China.**
 2. The tournament will be cross-examination style with 8-3-5 time limits. Prep time will be 5 minutes. If you struggle with flashing, electronic issues, etc., you will not be given extra prep.
 3. Rounds 1 and 2 in all divisions will be pre-set. We will probably delay power match in subsequent rounds, but there's some chance that we will computerize and straight match some of this if the schedule and numbers allow.
 4. Entry fees will be \$6.00 per team or whatever you charge at your tournament. Remember you have until 6:00 PM **Monday, September 12th** to move teams from division to division. **Additionally, all debater names should be entered into Tabroom.com by this time.** Cancellations after September 14th are non-refundable.
 5. The top teams in all divisions will receive medals. In Varsity and Open divisions, trophies will be awarded to quarterfinalists, semifinalists, and finalists and medals will be awarded to the top speakers. In Novice division, trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and the top teams and speakers will also be awarded medals. The traveling sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to the school with the best four-team record, with at least two teams in the Varsity division.
 6. Coaches and sponsors will be used to judge if necessary. If you are sending a sponsor, please send one capable of judging. Any school that does not/will not fulfill a judging request will have the judge removed from a room in which one of its teams is debating and that team will then forfeit that round with a 3-4 loss, "0" points.
- If the school registers for the Varsity division, they must provide the name (HEAD COACH, or ASSISTANT if Head Coach is not attending the tournament) of their judge to be used during Varsity Round 2. Enter that name where Tabroom.com calls for judges to be entered.
7. Any team more than 10 minutes late to a round through no fault of the tournament will be forfeited with a 3-4 loss, "0" points.
 8. Brackets will be broken in elimination rounds to accommodate schools that do or have done the same for us. Those who do not break brackets will not be afforded the same consideration.
 9. Schools will potentially be allowed entries on the basis of whose tournaments we attend, who invites us, and who enters first. The general rule is 4 total teams entered. Serious consideration of extra entries (up to 2 additional) will be given to schools that allow us extra teams into their tournaments, as well as Flint Hills NSDA District schools that host tournaments that we attend during which WaRu will be given additional entries.
 10. Judges will be considered clean at the beginning of elimination rounds and may see a team a second time in elimination rounds.
 11. The use of laptops computers will be allowed, but all wired or wireless functions must be disabled prior to the beginning of rounds in which they are used. **Any student found to be communicating with others through text messaging or a wireless network will be disqualified from the tournament, not just be given a loss in the round. This is cheating. We hate cheaters.**
 12. Tournament management reserves the right to handle difficulties in a way that seems fair to us.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (Tentative)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

(Varsity and Open)

Registration	WaRu Main Entrance [Complete by 3:00 pm]
Round 1	3:30 pm
Round 2	5:15 pm
Round 3	7:15 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

(All divisions)

Registration for Novices	(in WaRu Media Center)	by 7:30 am
Round 4 (V/O)	8:00 am	
Round 1 (Nov)	8:00 am	
Round 5 (V/O)	9:45 am	
Round 2 (Nov)	9:45 am	
Round 6 (V/O)	12:00 pm	
Round 3 (Nov)		11:45 pm
Round 4 (Nov)		1:30 pm
Varsity/Open Assembly	2:00 pm	
Quarterfinals (V/O)	2:30 pm	
Round 5 (Nov)		3:00 pm
Semis (V/O)	4:30 pm	
Novice Awards assembly		5:30 pm
Finals (V/O)	6:30 pm	

Questions? The Washburn Rural debate room phone number is (785) 339-4234. The best time to call is from 9:45 am - 1:00 pm and after 3:00 pm, any day of the week. You may leave a voice mail anytime of the day or night.