Dear Debate Coach:  
  
You are cordially invited to attend the NYC Urban Debate League Manhattan Middle School Debate Tournament on October 15th. The competition will be held at PS 161 Pedro Albizu Campos which is located at 499 West 133 Street, Manhattan, NY 10027.  
  
Please have your students complete and submit their parent permission slip to attend this tournament and all NYCUDL tournaments for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Any student that does not complete the permission slip prior to competition will not be allowed to compete. **If they have completed it for the first tournament they do not have to complete it again.** This is mandatory as we must comply with D.O.E. regulations. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.  
  
I recommend having your entire club fill out the permission slip when they join regardless if they plan to attend a competition. Parents and students can complete the permission slip on their phone, tablet, or PC with the link below. Day of tournament paper permission slips will NOT be accepted.  
  
High School Permission Slip: (9th – 12th grade) <https://www.tfaforms.com/345757>  
Middle School Permission Slip: (5th – 8th grade) <https://www.tfaforms.com/348080>  
  
We will host a Novice and Open division for Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate. Tournament registration will open Friday, September 16th 2016 and remain open until Wednesday, September 28th 2016.  This year we are using [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com/) for tournament registration instead of speechwire. Please make sure you have registered on tabroom and ask to be added to the NYC Urban Debate League Circuit. You will need to create a [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com/) account before you can register for this tournament. You can register by clicking your username at the top of the screen, then finding the tournament in your list of Upcoming Tournaments.  
  
Public Forum topic:  
Resolved: In the United States Public K-12 schools, the probable cause standard ought to apply to searches of students.  
  
Parliamentary topics:  
Round 1: This House would abolish the electoral college.  
Round 2: This House would adopt a mandatory dress code in NYC schools.  
Round 3: This House condemns Big Pharma.  
  
After all three rounds we will have a final showcase round for Public Forum with the award ceremony immediately after. The top ten teams from each division will be recognized with plaques of distinction. In addition all teams with winning records will also be recognized. The top 25% of speakers from each division will be awarded ranked medal distinction.  
  
We thank PS 161 and their coach Tyler Beattie for graciously hosting the first tournament of the season. We anticipate an excellent debate experience for your students!

If you have any additional concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email. Also check out [www.debate.nyc/resources](http://www.debate.nyc/resources) for skill and evidence support.

Here’s the schedule for Saturday.

**8:00 - 9:30** Registration and Breakfast

**9:00** Registration Closes

**9:40 - 10:00** Round 1 Motion Announced (Prep)

**10:00** Round 1

**11:00** - 11:20 Round 2 Motion Announced (Prep)

**Noon - 1:00** Lunch

**1:00 - 1:20** Round 3 Motion Announced (Prep)

**1:20 - 2:00** Round 3 (Power Matched)

**3:00 - 3:45** Awards

We look forward to seeing you in October!  
  
Sincerely,  
  
  
Meagan Kowaleski  
Harlem, Manhattan, & the Bronx Program Director  
NYC Urban Debate League  
[meagan@debate.nyc](mailto:meagan@debate.nyc)

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