

PUBLIC DEBATE PROGRAM

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS DEBATE OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Tri-State East Coast HSPDP
1st Invitational Tournament
2016 – 2017

October 5th, 2016

Dear Speech and Debate Coach,

On behalf of the East Coast HSPDP, I invite you and your debate team to the first High School Public Debate Program event in the tri-state area! Details about the event can be found on the following pages, but we plan to run 4 rounds of Parliamentary switch-side debate on two pre-announced topics followed by a final public debate on an extemporaneous topic between the top two teams in the tournament.

The first tournament will take place at the Wilberforce School in Princeton, NJ on Saturday, November 5th.

This will be the first in a series of tournaments for the newly created HSPDP Parliamentary Debate league in the tri-state area. Please consult the link below (hosted by our partner and fiscal agent, the English Speaking Union of New York) for information related to the schedule for league events. Registration and payment for the league and individual tournaments will also be done through the English Speaking Union site.

https://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/middle_school_debate/tristateHSPDP/

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding any of the information contained in the invitation letter. You may e-mail me at:

sfitzpatrick@hackkeyschool.org

I hope you have all gotten off to a good start to the year and I look forward to meeting you and your team at HSPDP tournament events this season!

Sincerely,
Stephen R. Fitzpatrick
Director of Debate, 5 – 12
Hackley School



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President
Tri-State East Coast HSPDP

**November 5th HSPDP
Wilberforce School**

Please read the invitation carefully. Hopefully, it will answer most of your questions!

Registration

To register for the tournament, please use the link [here](#) – it's important that only coaches fill out the registration form, not parents or debaters. The HSPDP format consists of 3-person teams. 2-person teams will only be permitted in rare and exceptional circumstances when a debater is sick or cancels on the day of an event. Unless approved ahead of time, 2-person teams are not eligible for awards. For further clarification about the rules governing the number of team members, please click [here](#).

League member schools may register up to 6 teams. Non-member schools who have reviewed the Public Debate Program materials, agree to adhere to the judging guide and rubric, and intend to have coaches and/or parents get judge certified at the event are welcome to register up to 6 teams as well. We have space for the first 40 teams that register. As our league has just begun and tournaments are hosted by member schools, we are limited in the number of entries that can be accommodated by various facilities. In order to help facilitate your program with maximum flexibility, registration will remain open until **Wednesday, November 2nd at 6PM.**

Divisions

The tournament will consist of a single division and is open to all 9th – 12th graders who wish to compete in Parliamentary Debate according to the rules established by the [High School Public Debate Program](#). The Teacher's Guide, Judging Guide, Rubric, and other documents can be found online. Schools that enter teams are expected to understand and abide by the rules set forth in the materials. For those schools that attended the orientation workshop, coaches and parents who were judge certified should plan to judge multiple rounds on the day of the tournament. We are likely to be a few judges short depending on the number teams entered by non-league schools. If you have any questions about any of the rules or the judge certification process, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.

Fees

For member schools, each school may enter up to 6 teams per tournament. The \$295 league dues represent full payment for the season and there are no additional costs associated with tournaments beyond a modest lunch fee. Non-member schools will be charged \$45 per team (\$15 per debater) per tournament. Should a non-member school

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wish to eventually join the league following tournament participation, their fees may be pro-rated towards the cost of league membership. If schools have questions or need clarification about fees or there are other financial considerations I should know about, please feel free to contact me.

To fill out the League Registration and get an invoice, please use the link [here](#).

Please make checks payable to:

The English Speaking Union
144 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016

Judging Requirements

The HSDPDP does not use paid judges and we require judge certification for all our tournament judges. While this will be a bit onerous to start the league, one of the distinguishing features of the Public Debate Program is its emphasis on high quality volunteer judges. Judges primarily consist of coaches, parents, former debaters, and other stakeholders in the debate community with an emphasis on the educational and pedagogical benefits of rigorous debate over the competitive. The Judging Guide and Rubric are quite comprehensive. Our tournaments require mandatory disclosure of both the result of the round as well as speaker points (on a 100 point rather than 30 point scale) with detailed feedback expected to be given to all debaters.

A regular rules discussion and review will be covered in the judge certification process which takes place at every tournament. We will also hold a judge norming session prior to the start of the tournament. Judges who do not feel comfortable judging a round will be paired with an experienced judge to start the day. Though secondary school debate judging will never be perfect, we try to maintain consistency among judges to provide the best possible experience for the debaters.

The goal is for every school to provide one certified HSDPDP judge for every two teams entered. For the first tournament, especially if we have a number of non-member schools who did not attend the orientation workshop, we understand that schools may have trouble meeting that goal. We hope to have enough certified judges on hand to offset



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these needs, but going forward in the league, it will be a requirement for schools to bring certified judges.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions regarding judging as this is often the most contentious and confusing aspect of the debate world!

Tournament Format and Schedule for the Day

At the orientation workshop, the attending coaches agreed that for our first event, we would run 4 rounds on two pre-announced topics with each team debating PROP and OPP for both topics. At the conclusion of the 4 rounds, the top two teams in the event (speaker scores will serve as the tie-breaker among undefeated teams) will receive an extemporaneous topic to be debated in front of the entire audience.

All regular season HSPDP tournaments are single day events.

Tentative Schedule for the Day

Time	Activity
8AM – 9AM	Registration
9AM – 9:30AM	General Assembly and Welcome
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Round 1
11:00 AM – 12: 30PM	Round 2
12:30 PM – 1PM	Lunch
1PM – 2:30 PM	Round 3
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Round 4
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Break / Coaches Meeting
4:30 PM– 5:00 PM	Public Debate Finals
5:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Awards

Pre-Announced Topics (Not necessarily In Round Order)

The FBI should be given substantially more power to prevent domestic terrorism.

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Social media does more good than harm.

While the topics are not in Round order, the first topic announced will serve as the motion for Rounds 1 & 2. Obviously, that means Rounds 3 & 4 will use the other motion.

Debaters may use briefs, prepared cases, or research, **but they will only be permitted to bring into the debate round information they transfer by hand on colored sheets of paper provided during the preparation period.** Students may use laptops or tablets during preparation time to access debate materials. Students may not use an electronic device to connect to the internet. In other words, electronic devices may serve as a substitute for paper. Only paper, however, may be brought into a debate round. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis for paperless schools and/or students with a graphomotor or other documented accommodation.

We would like all teams and schools to stay through the public debate finals to help foster and create a sense of community for the opening event of the league. Students should not sign up and register for the day if they cannot take part in all the rounds of debate. Awards will be given to the top teams, schools, and individual debaters. Our league will recognize a top speaker from each school that participates as well.

It is my sincere hope that we can create a debate league that emphasizes community, learning, fun, competition, and the intellectual respect that accompanies the notion of [“civilized dissent.”](#)

I look forward to seeing teams at the debate on November 5th!

Sincerely,

Stephen Fitzpatrick
Director of Debate, 5 – 12
Hackley School
Tarrytown, NY 10591
President
Tri-State East Coast HSPDP



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