

To the Debate Community of Connecticut,

The Yale Debate Association is pleased to invite you to attend the 36th Annual Rollin G. Osterweis Debate Tournament on Sunday, April 9, 2017.

For those of you unfamiliar with the tournament, the Osterweis is a free tournament for Connecticut high school students to experience the collegiate style of parliamentary debate. The Osterweis will feature both a novice and a varsity division. Novice participants should be debaters in their first year of high school debate, and not above sophomore year.

Novice participants will have the opportunity to learn about parliamentary procedure in the morning with a demonstration round, and then debate with a partner for 3 preliminary rounds, before breaking to semifinals and a final round. Varsity teams will compete in 4 preliminary rounds, breaking to semifinals and then finals. We will be using the 7-8-8-8-4-5 APDA format (see <http://www.apdaweb.org/> for more information)

Debates will focus on issues familiar to the average student, including American and international politics, ethics and justice. Students will be given a free lunch and a breakfast, and Yale debaters will judge and offer feedback. Awards will be given to the top varsity and top novice teams and speakers.

Please note that this year registration will be hosted on tabroom.com. You can register by going to <http://osterweis17.tabroom.com>. Registration opens March 20 at 8.00am and closes March 31 at 6.00pm.

You can access a set of helpful instructions for registering your team using Tabroom's online manual under "Help/About" on the main menu. However, should you have difficulty registering, please contact us and we will personally enter your teams. We intend to cap the size of our tournament this year, and will therefore set a soft cap of 3 teams accepted per school. All entries should be registered before 6.00pm on March 31.

We highly encourage schools to register at least 1 novice team for every 2 varsity teams – we feel it is important to give younger debaters a chance to participate. We also encourage you to register as many as 6 teams, because if we do not reach our cap, we will be admitting additional teams, with final notification sent out after 10.00PM on April 2. We will try to accommodate any changes made to registration prior to this deadline, but ask that you notify us as soon as you can.

All updates will be posted on our website, <http://www.yaledebate.org/osterweis/>. Additionally, Yale requires that the school or guardian signs a release form – we will post this form on the website too. Please feel free to email us at osterweis2017@gmail.com with any questions or concerns, and feel free to pass this information on to other schools who might be interested.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Best,
Billy Roberts, Tournament Director
Michael Mao, Tournament Director

Important note: All student participants who are minors must have their parent/guardian complete the Yale waiver form, <http://www.yaledebate.org/osterweis/Osterweis-Release-Form-2017.doc>. Student participants must bring a completed paper copy of this form on Sunday.

Osterweis 2017 Schedule

9:00AM to 9:30AM	Registration and breakfast
9:30AM to 10:30AM	Varsity Round 1, Novice demonstration round
10:45AM to 11:45AM	Varsity Round 2, Novice Round 1
12Noon to 1PM	Varsity Round 3, Novice Round 2
1PM to 2PM	Lunch
2PM to 3PM	Varsity Round 4, Novice Round 3
3:15PM to 4:15PM	Semifinal rounds
4:30PM to 5:30PM	Final rounds
6:00PM to 6:30PM	Awards

Osterweis Debate Format

Speech	Timing
Prime Minister's Constructive (PMC)	7 minutes
Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC)	8 minutes
Member of Government Constructive (MGC)	8 minutes
Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC)	8 minutes
Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR)	4 minutes
Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR)	5 minutes