



THUNDERING WORD

**46th Marshall University John
Marshall
Speech and Debate Tournament**

**Huntington WV
16-17 February 2018**

IMPORTANT: INVITATION UPDATED 24 JANUARY 2018 TO ADD FRIDAY MORNING SESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE FOR SCHOOLS THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE.

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 46th Marshall University John Marshall Speech and Debate Tournament to be held on Friday, 16 February 2018, and Saturday, 17 February 2018 at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

EVENTS AND ENTRIES

This year we will offer competition in 16 different speech and debate events. The events are:

Speech Flight A	Speech Flight B	Debate
Broadcasting	Duo Interpretation	Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Declamation	Humorous Interpretation	Public Forum Debate
Dramatic Interpretation	Impromptu Speaking	Congressional Debate
Extemporaneous Speaking	Original Oratory	
Improvisational Duo	Poetry Interpretation	
Programmed Oral Interpretation	Sales	
Prose Interpretation	Storytelling	

STUDENT ENTRIES

A school may have unlimited student entries in each event. Students may enter up to seven events subject to the following:

- Any student may enter Congressional Debate, which will be held Friday morning before the remainder of the tournament starts.
- No student may enter both broadcasting and extemporaneous speaking.
- A student competing only in speech events may enter up to three events in Flight A.
- A student competing only in speech events may enter up to three events in Flight B.

- A student competing in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate may also enter Extemporaneous Speaking OR Broadcasting OR one additional speech event in Flight A and one additional speech event in Flight B.
- A student competing in Public Forum Debate, but not Lincoln-Douglas Debate, may enter up to three additional speech events in Flight A and one additional speech event in Flight B.
- A student competing in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, but not Public Forum Debate, may enter up to three additional speech events in Flight B and one additional speech event in Flight A.
- A student may be entered in two duos in Duo Interpretation as long as the partners and pieces are different.

JUDGING ENTRIES

One judge is owed for each six speech entries. One judge is owed for each two debate entries. All judges must be knowledgeable of tournament and event rules. All judges must be made available to judge until the ballots for the last final round have been distributed. All debate judges must be qualified to judge both Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

REGISTRATION

You may register for this tournament at <http://mujm.tabroom.com>.

The registration deadline is 13 February at 12:00 PM, but you are encouraged to register earlier so we can better prepare. You may make changes through 15 February at 12:00 PM without any nuisance fees applying.

DEADLINES

Congressional debate bills/resolution submission: 9 February at 12:00 PM (Each school may submit two primary bills and an unlimited number of secondary bills. A docket and all bills/resolutions received will be posted online by 5:00 PM.)

New entries: 13 February at 12:00 PM

Judges entries: 13 February at 12:00 PM

Fees & obligations freeze: 15 February at 12:00 PM

Online drops & name changes: 15 February at 12:00 PM

Nuisance fees apply after 15 February at 12:00 PM

FEES

ENTRY FEES

Hospitality:	\$4.00 per person
Speech individual events:	\$6.00 per entry
Speech duo events:	\$12.00 per team
Congressional debate:	\$6.00 per entry
Lincoln-Douglas debate:	\$12.00 per person
Public Forum Debate:	\$18.00 per team
Individual sweepstakes:	\$6.00 per entry

JUDGING FEES*

Hospitality:	\$4.00 per person
Uncovered speech entries:	\$8.00 per entry
Uncovered debate entries:	\$24.00 per entry

*The designation of any judge as both a speech and a debate judge will result in a discount on uncovered entries.

STUDENT ADD/DROP FEES

Thursday, 15 February (after 12:00 PM)	\$10.00 + entry fee
Friday, 16 February (before 9:30 AM)	\$15.00 + entry fee
Friday, 16 February (after 9:30 AM)	\$25.00 + entry fee

JUDGE DROP FEES

Thursday, 15 February (after 12:00 PM)	\$50.00
Friday, 16 February (after 9:30 AM)	\$100.00

To avoid high drop fees on the day of the tournament, call or text Clara Adkins with any drops no later than 9:30 AM. Drop fees must be paid before the posting of elimination rounds. Failure to pay the drop fees will result in those schools' entries being disqualified and the forfeiture of all sweepstakes points for the tournament.

INVOICE/PAYMENT

You can print your invoice through tabroom.com. Make checks payable to MU Speech and Debate. Cash is also accepted.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, 16 February

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Registration
8:45 AM to 10:00 AM – Congress Session I
10:10 AM to 11:40 AM – Congress Session II
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM – PF Debate Rd 1
12:30 PM – Extemp Draw
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM – Speech Rd 1, Flight A
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM – LD Debate Rd 1
2:30 PM to 4:00 PM – Speech Rd 1, Flight B
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM – PF Debate Rd 2
3:30 PM – Extemp Draw
3:45 PM – Broadcasting Draw
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM – Speech Rd 1, Flight A
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM – LD Debate Rd 2
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM – Speech Rd 2, Flight B
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM – PF Debate Rd 3

Saturday, 17 February

8:00 AM – Extemp/Broadcasting Draw
8:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Speech Rd 3, Flight A
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM – LD Debate Rd 3
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM – PF Debate Rd 4
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Speech Rd 3, Flight B
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM – LD Debate Rd 4
11:00 AM to 12:30 PM – Lunch
11:30 PM – Extemp/Broadcasting Draw
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM – Speech Elims A
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM – PF Semifinals
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM – LD Semifinals
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM – Speech Elims B
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM – PF Finals
3:00 PM – Extemp/Broadcasting Draw
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM – Speech Elims C
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM – LD Finals
5:30 PM -- Awards

SPEECH EVENTS

DIVISIONS

Speech events may be divided into novice and varsity divisions or a novice final round may be held if there are at least 12 novice contestants.

EVENT RULES

The tournament follows National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) high school rules for the following events: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, and Programmed Oral Interpretation. *See* <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2016-2017.pdf>.

The tournament follows National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) rules for the following events: Prose Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), Poetry Interpretation (Oral Interpretation), and Declamation (Oratorical Declamation). Declamation is limited to middle school students, freshmen, and sophomores. *See* <http://www.ncfl.org/competition-events>.

The tournament rules for other events are as follows:

Broadcasting – The tournament follows West Virginia Speech and Debate Association (WVSDA) rules (see <http://wvsda.org>) for this event, except that all rounds are TV news. Contestants are judged not only on what is heard, but also how it is presented. Judge eye contact, facial expression, and body movement.

- Round 1 (prepared TV news): No preparation time; contestants report to round. Contestants will prepare a news script using up-to-date material. An introduction, sign-off, and brief commercial (15 seconds suggested length) must be included in the broadcast. Contestants must give a copy of the script to the judge and present all copy as it appears in the script. Maximum time limit: 3 minutes with 30 second grace period both above and below the time limit.
- Round 2 (verbatim TV news): 15 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants are given a news script and must deliver it verbatim with the following exceptions: An introduction and sign-off are required, and transitions may be used. There is no time limit.
- Round 3, semi-finals, finals (cut TV news): 30 minutes prep time; contestants report to prep room. Contestants must edit the copy given to them and include an introduction, impromptu commercial, and sign-off within a five-minute time frame. During the round, contestants may use a stopwatch as judges will not give time signals. Maximum time limit: 5 minutes with no grace period.

Improvisational Duo – The tournament follows WVSDA rules (see <http://wvsda.org>) for this event. Teams, which enter one by one, are given the same topic and must perform a scene based on that topic. The scene must contain only two characters with equal sharing of dialogue. An introduction by one or both contestants is required to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted, but a table and/or two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used. No profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessive physicality (i.e. pushing, shoving, striking) is allowed. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking

skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience. Preparation time: 3 minutes. Maximum performance time limit: 6 minutes with 30 second grace period. The judge must provide contestants with time signals.

Sales – The tournament follows WVSDA rules (see <http://wvsda.org>) for this event. Each contestant presents an original speech whose purpose is to promote and or sell to the audience a realistic, tangible, brand-named product or service. Visual aids are required, but the actual product need not be used. Contestants should persuade the audience as well as sell the product. It is not intended to be a sales pitch only. Notes are not permitted. Display set-up time limit: 3 minutes. Maximum speaking time limit: 10 minutes with 30 second grace period.

Storytelling – Each contestant will present a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend which must be retold without props. A book or script may be used. The contestant must not materially change the content of the story. Contestants may sit on the floor, stand or use a limited amount of room for movement. No chairs may be used. Original introductory remarks are permitted. Maximum time limit: 10 minutes with 30 second grace period.

Finally, a judge may seek clarification concerning whether a rule violation has occurred from tournament hosts. But it will be the responsibility of the judge, not tournament hosts, to determine the appropriate penalty for a rule violation.

TIMING AND TIME LIMITS

With the exception of extemporaneous speaking (7 minutes with 30 second grace period), impromptu speaking (7 minutes with 30 second grace period for both prep and speaking), broadcasting (time limits vary by round), and improvisational duo (6 minutes with 30 second grace period for performance), the maximum time limit per event is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. **There is no minimum time for any event at this tournament.**

Judges must time all events. Judges, however, are required to give contestants time signals only in extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, and improvisational duo, but not in other events.

ROUNDS

There will be 3 preliminary rounds and either one or two elimination rounds for each speech event unless the event has fewer than 10 contestants in which case there will be no elimination rounds. If a speech event has 31 or more contestants/teams, the event will break to two or three sections of semi-finals and then to finals. If the speech event has 10 to 30 contestants/teams, the event will break only to finals. Preliminary rounds will have one judge and elimination rounds will have at least three judges.

BREAKING TIES

The following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: total ranks, reciprocal fractions, total speaker points. If a tie remains, all tied contestants advance.

The following is the order for determining placement in elimination rounds: total ranks, judges' preference, total speaker points, highest seed after preliminary rounds.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to semi-finalists and finalists for all events that break to semi-finals then finals. Awards will be given to finalists for all events that break to finals. For events that do not break to finals, awards will be given to no more than half of the contestants. For any event that does not have a novice division, a top novice award will also be given.

DEBATE EVENTS

RULES

The tournament follows NSDA high school rules except as follows:

Congressional Debate – To promote efficiency: (1) Each school may enter a maximum of six students. (2) Each school may designate up to two students as potential presiding officers. (3) Tournament hosts will randomly select the two presiding officers – one for Session 1 and one for Session 2 – from among the schools’ designees. (4) Each school may submit two primary bills/resolutions and any number of secondary bills/resolutions. (5) Tournament hosts will establish a docket, which will control the order in which bills/resolutions may be taken up. Primary bills/resolutions will appear in front of secondary bills/resolutions on the docket. (The Senate/House may table consideration of a bill/resolution, but may not reorder the docket.)

DIVISIONS

Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate events may be divided into varsity, junior varsity, and/or novice divisions if there would be at least 12 teams in each division.

TOPICS

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic will be:

Resolved: Plea bargaining ought to be abolished in the United States criminal justice system.

The Public Forum Debate topic will be:

Resolved: The United States should abolish the capital gains tax.

ROUNDS

For Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate, there will be 4 preliminary rounds and two elimination rounds for each debate event if the event has 8 or more entries. If a debate event has 6 or entries, the debate event will have only a final round. If a debate event has 5 or few entries, we will use a round-robin format. Preliminary rounds will have one judge and elimination rounds will have at least three judges.

PAIRINGS

Unless a round-robin format is being used, students from the same school will not debate one another in preliminary rounds. Students, however, may debate one another in elimination rounds. In such a case, the coach will make the decision whether the two people or teams debate.

Unless a round-robin format is used, Round 1 will be preset, Round 2 will be power matched high-low, Round 3 will be power matched high-high, and Round 4 will be power matched high-low.

BREAKING TIES

The following is the order for determining advancement from preliminary rounds: win-loss record, head-to-head score, speaker points, speaker points except best and worst, judge variation, and coin flip.

The following is the order for determining placement in elimination rounds: win/loss record in round.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to the top six Congressional debaters and the best presiding officer.

Awards will be given to semi-finalists and finalists for all events that break to semi-finals then finals. Awards will be given to finalists for all debate events that break directly to finals. For events that do not break to finals (e.g., operate with round-robin format), awards will be given to the top two debaters or debate teams.

Awards will be given to the six best speakers across debate events based on speaker points in preliminary rounds. Ties will be broken based on speaker points except best and worst, head-to-head score, and win-loss record. For any event that does not have a novice division, a top novice award will also be given.

NOVICE, JUNIOR VARSITY, VARSITY STATUS

A novice is someone in their first year of forensic competition OR in middle school.

A junior varsity student is someone who is in their second year of forensic competition.

A varsity student is one who is not a novice or junior varsity student.

SWEEPSTAKES

SCORING SYSTEM

If you want additional information about the scoring system used, please contact the tournament director.

INDIVIDUAL SWEEPSTAKES

The six students who earn the most sweepstakes points will receive awards. To be eligible for individual sweepstakes, a student must enter at least three events.

TEAM SWEEPSTAKES

The six schools that earn the most sweepstakes points across all events will receive awards. Only a school's top three entries in an event count toward team sweepstakes.

Depending on the size of the tournament, separate team sweepstakes awards may be given in speech and debate, among middle schools, and among schools with small entries.

TRAVELING TROPHY

The tournament presents a traveling trophy to the team with the highest number of sweepstakes points over the years. Once a school wins, its total points go to zero.

LODGING

Holiday Inn & Suites – Civic Center – 800 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
(877) 863-4780

- 0.9 miles west of campus
- Free wireless internet

Super 8 Huntington – 3090 16th Street Road, Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 525-1410

- 2.2 miles southeast of campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Free high-speed internet

- Indoor swimming pool

Ramada Huntington – 3140 16th St. Road, Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 523-8308

- 2.2 miles southeast of campus
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Free high-speed internet
- Indoor swimming pool

Holiday Inn & Suites – Barboursville – 3551 Rt. 60 East, Barboursville, WV 25504
(877) 863-4780

- 5.2 miles east of campus
- Free high-speed internet

Comfort Inn – 249 Mall Rd, Barboursville, WV 25504
(304) 733-2122

- 9.1 miles East of campus
- Complimentary continental Breakfast
- Free wireless internet

Hampton Inn Barboursville – 1 Cracker Barrel Dr, Barboursville, WV 25504
(304) 733-5300

- 9.3 miles east of campus
- Free high-speed internet

FOOD

On Saturday, we will provide lunch for tournament participants. Additionally, many food options are available close to the tournament site.

If you have any questions, please contact me. We look forward to seeing you this winter!

Sincerely,

Clara Adkins
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