Dear Colleague,

You and your squad are invited to attend the St. Thomas Aquinas tournament on Saturday, November 18.  We will offer five rounds of delay-powered competition in both Policy Debate (debating the education topic) and Public Forum Debate (debating the November topic on gun control).

You may enter four teams or as many as you permitted Aquinas to enter at your invitational, whichever is greater. Entry fees are $5/entry or what you charge at your tournament, whichever is greater. I anticipate an entry cap of 100 teams, with a possible expansion through double-flighting PFD rounds if entries permit. My priority is to grant reciprocal entries to schools whose tournaments we attend, followed by proportionally allocating entries to schools which sent us invitations.

We are a tabroom.com event. Please enter your teams at [http://stadb8.tabroom.com](http://stadb8.tabroom.com/). You may use placeholder names for your entries until you know which kids you’re sending. All entries will be waitlisted until space opens up for them. Once I clear an entry from the waitlist, that team is officially guaranteed entry into the tournament; the program will auto-generate an email to you when this happens. As a general rule, the number of teams seeking to enter greatly exceeds the space available and most schools only receive confirmation in the seven days preceding the event. I recognize that this is a pain in the rear. I’ll do the best I can. You can assist in the process by dropping entries as soon as you know you’re not using them.

We look forward to hosting you in November.

-Steve DuBois, Debate Coach

-Jenna Dawson, Tournament Director

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:30 Round 1

10:00 Round 2

11:30 Round 3

1:30 Round 4

3:00 Round 5

STA TOURNAMENT GROUND RULES

1. It is important that each of your teams bring a timing device; we cannot guarantee timekeepers in all rounds and the clocks in our buildings do not have second hands.
2. All of our alumni policy debaters will be judging policy debate. Many policy rounds will be judged by laypeople. PFD judges will be laypeople exclusively.
3. Your sponsors may be asked to judge one round, though I am generally able to avoid this.  Refusal to judge will result in our pulling the judge from your top varsity round and assigning your team a loss.
4. We believe quality of argumentation trumps pure speaking skills; hence, our tournament permits judges to award high point wins if their ballot clearly indicates that this is a conscious decision on their part.  We permit brief oral critiques provided that they are accompanied by a written RFD.
5. Sweeps is based on your top four entries regardless of division. Awards based on record, ranks, head-to-head, opp wins, random draw.
6. All disputes will be resolved by the host coach; no grievance committees will be appointed under any circumstances.  We reserve the right to deviate from KSHSAA guidelines whenever I feel like it.  Laptop use and evidence sharing as per KSHSAA guidelines.
7. Our tab room in room 134 is open, but given that it’s all on computers that doesn’t mean much. We recommend that your sponsor create a tabroom.com account and follow the live updates at [http://stadb8.tabroom.com](http://stadb8.tabroom.com/).
8. Pizza pre-orders for Saturday lunch. Form will be in your registration packet and needs to be turned in by 9:00 am Saturday. The lunch break is not very long, so we recommend this option.
9. Your competitors are expected to make a good faith effort to make the competition experience a pleasant one for all participants and adult volunteers. Vandals, sexists and other buffoons will be sent home.