The deadline to enter Big Questions debate is Tuesday, April 10 at 3:45 pm at Derby High School. You may make name changes and drop until 3:00 pm on the day of the tournament.

We are currently sitting at 16 entries. We must have 15 students compete for it to count as a qualifier. I would ask those of you with one or three entries to bring another student along. I hope some other schools will join in as well. The judging requirement is only one judge per two entries. Please enter your judges in Tabroom as soon as possible. Judges should plan on being there for all six rounds.

The entry fee is $6.00 per entry and we have medals for the top 6. Only the winner will qualify to nationals. There is a judge requirement at nationals that will be the responsibility of the school who qualifies (highlighted below). There is a process outlined below for at-large entries, but I am not at all familiar with this process.

We will utilize the 4 rounds with semi-finals and finals format. The first two rounds will be pre-set. The schedule will be:

3:00 - 3:30 PM Registration in L-15 (Students will hang-out in the library downstairs)

Round 1 - 3:45 pm

Round 2 - 4:30 pm

Round 3 - 5:30 pm

Round 4 - 6:30 pm

Semi-Finals - ASAP

Finals - ASAP

There will not be much of a lounge or concession stand. I would recommend you bring some snacks and drinks to get through the evening. There will not be a dinner break. There are several pizza delivery options and fast food available in the area.

The Rules/Information:

Local Tournament Information - Unified High School Manual - p. 89

District Qualification Process for Big Questions Debates

For additional information about debate rules and access to resources and judge training, visit the Big Questions website

at www.speechanddebate.org/big-questions.

Entries/Qualification Process

• The top-placing student at each district’s Big Questions division will be invited to participate at Nationals.

• To host a district Big Questions event, fill out the online application by April 1, 2017. To get started, visit

www.speechanddebate.org/big-questions or email lauren.burdt@speechanddebate.org.

• Big Questions entries will not count toward a school’s district entry limits.

• The district Big Questions division may be held in conjunction with the district tournament or as a stand-alone event on a separate date as long as it occurs before May 15, 2017. The district event must meet the following requirements:

• Minimum of 15 high school competitors.

• All students must compete as individuals.

• More than one school in attendance.

• The event must be organized through or with the permission of the district chair.

• The event will either a) follow the double elimination format of other district debate events or b) hold a

minimum of four preliminary rounds and semifinals.

• The top-placing student will not be eligible to compete in the Big Questions Capstone Event if they have qualified in a main event.

• If the Big Questions district event is held before the district’s main National Qualifying tournament, the top placing student’s name may be withdrawn and replaced with an alternate’s if the top-placing student qualifies in another event.

• “At-large” invitations will also be sent to individual students who have performed well in the event throughout the season if they did not qualify at their district tournament. Invitations will be sent starting April 15, 2017.

• Only entries composed of individual debaters may compete at Nationals.

Nationals Information - Unified High School manual p. 116

Big Questions Capstone Event Logistics

For additional information about debate rules and access to resources and judge training, visit the Big Questions website at www.speechanddebate.org/big-questions.

Entries

• The top-placing student at each district’s Big Questions division will be invited to participate at Nationals. (For details, refer to the “District Qualification Process for Big Questions Debates” in the “District Tournament

Operations Manual” section of this manual.)

• “At-large” invitations will also be sent to individual students who have performed well in the event throughout

the season if they did not qualify at their district tournament. Invitations will be sent starting April 15, 2018.

• Only entries composed of individual debaters may compete at Nationals. The cost of entry is $75 per student (or

$50 per student for teams staying WITHIN the National Tournament hotel block).

Judges

• Each district must provide a full-time judge for each entry available for the entirety of the competition. The judge may not be entered into any other judging pool at the National Speech & Debate Tournament.

• There are no hired judges available.

• Judges must attend judge training on Monday, June 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Topic

• Students will debate the 2017-2018 topic, Resolved: Humans are fundamentally different from other animals.

• Students must attend the topic discussion on Monday, June 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Participation in Supplemental and Consolation Events

• Students who are eliminated from competition on Tuesday are eligible to enter in supplemental events if preregistered. Coaches must re-register online or in-person during the student posting party Tuesday evening.

• Students who do not advance to Thursday’s rounds may enter in consolation events if pre-registered. Coaches must re-register online or in-person Wednesday afternoon/evening.