

The University of Houston Cougar Classic

4th Annual, January 12-13, 2017

On behalf of the Speech and Debate Program, the Honors College, and the University of Houston, we would like to invite you to the 4th Annual Cougar Classic Speech & Debate Tournament at the University of Houston, which will be held on January 12th & 13th, 2018 on the main UH campus. The tournament is a TOC semifinal bid in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy debate, and a finals bid in Public Forum (Silver Bid in Semifinals), and will be a TFA qualifier in all TFA events.

UPDATED 12-27-17: New IE schedule and entry patterns (see below).

NEW FOR 2018: Reduced entry fees in individual events and, due to the tournament falling on a different weekend this year, elimination of the per-student fee.

All events will be held on the UH campus this year. All registration will be done through Tabroom.com, which you can find here: uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com

We will again offer a full complement of Individual Events, Duo & Duet, and Congressional, Lincoln Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum debate. We are excited to host this tournament to showcase our team, our campus, and our commitment to a thriving culture of debate in the city of Houston and the state of Texas. Initial entries may be limited, but it is likely that the tournament will let in a substantial number of waitlist entries (please contact us with questions).

Hospitality

We are committed to providing an enjoyable and sustainable tournament experience for all participants. We have worked to ensure that students and coaches will feel at home and focus their energy on debate and competition. Since the majority of campus dining options will be open on this year's weekend, we will be **eliminating the \$25 per-student fee** of previous years (a change we hope will be permanent). We will provide a map of dining options on campus and their hours, and will continue to serve coffee in the mornings in designated tournament buildings. In addition, UH has a robust guest network that should easily handle any Internet access needs for tournament guests.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Garner

Director, Speech & Debate
uh.cougar.classic@gmail.com

**The Honors College
University of Houston**

Twitter: @HoustonDebate

Instagram: @uhdebate

Facebook: facebook.com/HoustonDebate/

Logistics & Rules

Location & Entries

The Cougar Classic will be held entirely at the University of Houston Main Campus this year. All entries will be made through Tabroom.com: www.uhcougarclassic.tabroom.com

Hotel

Houston has a large number of lodging options, and the campus is convenient to hotels in downtown, midtown, and Hobby Airport. We are working on adding a block of rooms to the hotel and will update the invitation with that information if one becomes available. Please email the tournament with lodging inquiries.

Judging Requirements

Teams are required to provide qualified judging to cover their entry (divisible by entries; see chart below). The tournament will offer hired judging (calculated by the whole judge), but the pool of hired judges will be limited.

Event	Entries per judge	Hired Judge Rate
Policy	2	\$200
Public Forum	4	\$200
Lincoln Douglas	4	\$200
Congress	5	\$75
Extemp	5	\$75
IEs	5	\$50

Tabroom.com will be used for all entry, pairings and balloting. All judges are required to have a tabroom.com account and all students should sign up for an account (to receive emails/texts with pairings and announcements).

Mutual judge preference will be used in CX & LD. Preferences will open on January 2nd and will be due at 6 pm on January 11th. All judges are committed through the octafinal debate and one round after his/her team's elimination. Any school entered in individual events must provide a judge for every 15 individual event or Duet Acting slots. Schools with students advancing to semi-finals in speech events are required to be available for all final rounds. Judges may not count for both Debate and IE requirements.

If you know judges who would like to be hired, please share:

<http://bit.ly/uhjudge18>

Fees

Event	Entry Fee UH
Policy	\$100
Public Forum	\$80
Lincoln Douglas	\$60
Congress	\$40
Extemp	\$20
Duet/Duo	\$20
Other IEs	\$15

As noted above we are experiment this year and eliminating the entry fee since dining will be available on campus.

Drops: All drops after 11:55 pm on the Tuesday before the tournament (January 9th, 2018) will result in the loss of entry fees and hired judge fees until the day of the tournament. Drops after 5:00 pm on the Thursday before the tournament (January 11th, 2018) will result in an additional \$75 fee; no shows the day of the tournament will incur an additional \$100 fee. Judges dropped after NOON the Wednesday before the tournament (January 10th, 2018) will incur the judge fees plus a \$100 drop fee. Judges dropped on the day of the tournament will incur the judge fees plus a \$200 drop fee. Judges who fail to pick up a ballot for an assigned round will incur a \$50 fee for the first instance. A second instance will incur a \$100 nuisance fee, plus judge drop fees, plus calculated judge fees.

Teams must pay by check, cash, or credit card. Due to previous non-payments, purchase orders will not be accepted. Failure to resolve all fees will render students ineligible for competition.

Make checks payable to the **University of Houston**.
The University's W9 is available here: <http://bit.ly/uhw9cc>

Our mailing address:

UH Speech & Debate
The Honors College
M.D. Anderson Library
4333 University Dr. Rm 212
Houston, TX 77204-2001

You can contact us at:

Richard A. Garner
Director, Speech & Debate
uh.cougar.classic@uh.edu
713.743.5707 (email preferable)

Entries & Cross-Entry (UPDATED 12-27-17)

We will freeze entries on Tabroom.com at 11:55 pm on the Monday before the tournament (January 8th, 2018). Any changes after that date must be communicated to the tournament staff directly.

CX/LD/PF Debate contestants may not cross-enter into other events. Congress may only cross-enter in Extemp events; Extemp participants cannot cross-enter in both Congress and IEs.

Updated Cross-Entry Patterns:

Congress: only cross-entry with extemp
Extemp: cross-entry with IEs, but only if not also doing Congress
IE: Up to three entries
CX/LD/PF Debate- still no cross-entries

Contestants should make an effort to notify their judges when they are cross-entered. Tardiness to rounds may result in disqualification unless excused by the tabroom or tournament director.

Rules

- TFA rules will be followed in all TFA events (see: <http://www.txfa.org/>)

- The current NSDA topics will be used in all debate events.
- Contestants must be accompanied by a coach or an approved adult sponsor.
- If entries from the same school meet in elimination rounds, we will not break brackets.
- Panels will be used in all elimination rounds.
- The use of tobacco is prohibited on the UH campus including the parking lot and sidewalks.
- Any defacing or damaging of school property will result in instant disqualification of that student. The incident will be reported to the authorities and students may be subject to discipline.

Awards

Awards will be given to all contestants in elimination rounds. Debate speaker awards will be given to the top ten speakers in each division. Three overall sweepstakes places will be awarded.

Congress

Presiding officers will be elected. Please indicate students who wish to run for PO on the entry. We will use direct questioning in finals. Congress legislation can be found in the Congress section on the TFA website at www.txfa.org. Congress legislation will be debated as follows:

Prelims: Items 1-12

Semis: Items 13-21

Finals: Items 22-30

IEs/Congress Schedule (UPDATED 1-9-18)

Note: This schedule may be adjusted depending on final room scheduling arrangements. Please check back prior to the tournament for the finalized schedule.

Friday	Individual Events & Congress
8:30-9:00	FX Draw 1
9:00-10:30	IE's Round 1
	FX Round 1
9:30-12:30	Congress Session 1
1:00-1:30	DX Draw 1
1:30-3:00	IE's Round 2
	DX Round 1
3:00-3:30	FX Draw 2
3:30-5:00	Informative, Impromptu, Prose, Poetry, DI & OO Finals
	FX Round 2
6:00-7:00	DX Draw 2
7:00-8:30	(Alternative Finals Timeslot if numbers require)
	DX Round 2
Saturday	Individual Events & Congress
8:30-9:00	FX Finals Draw
9:00-10:30	FX Finals
9:30-12:30	Congress Finals
12:30-1:00	DX Draw
1:00-2:30	DX Finals
3:00	Awards Ceremony (Honors Commons, subject to schedule)

Debate Schedule

Friday	Debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum)
8:00 am	Round 1 (<i>Preset</i>)
10:15 am	Round 2 (<i>Preset</i>)
1:30 pm	Round 3 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
4:15 pm	Round 4 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
6:45 pm	Round 5 (<i>High-Low within Brackets</i>)
Saturday	
7:00 am	Pairings & Challenges
8:00 am	ALL: Double Octofinals (<i>LD, PF Double Flighted</i>)
10:45 am	ALL: Octofinals
12:00 pm	LD/PF: Quarterfinals
1:30 pm	CX: Quarterfinals
2:00 pm	LD/PF: Semifinals
4:30 pm	CX: Semifinals LD/PF: Finals
7:15 pm	CX: Finals