

Dear Coaches:

The Chesapeake District Committee welcomes you and your team to the Big Questions Debate District Tournament, to be held on April 21st at Loyola Blakefield High School in Towson, MD.

The tournament features competition in Big Questions Debate only.  The winning entry will qualify for the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, to be held this year in June in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

The topic is: Resolved: Humans are fundamentally different from other animals.

If you have any questions, you can reach Charles Donovan, District Chair at [cdonovan@loyolablakefield.org](mailto:rosesteck@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

Charles Donovan, Gavin Mease, Monty Crawford, & Steve Sprouse

The Chesapeake District Committee

**Directions to Loyola Blakefield:**

Loyola Blakefield High School

500 Chestnut Ave.

Towson, MD 21204

**From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695):** Take the Charles Street exit and go south. At Chestnut, there is a light. Make a left and then make another left into the parking lot, next to the tennis courts. For additional parking or for bus parking, drive further down Chestnut Ave. and turn left into the main entrance. Keep driving past Knott Hall (the clock tower building). There are additional parking lots ahead, and down the hill. Please do not park in the loop outside of Wheeler Hall.

**From Northbound on Charles Street:** Turn right onto Chestnut Ave. This is just north of the GBMC campus, and is the next light after the Towsontown Blvd. light.

**From I-95:** Take the I-695 exit towards Towson and follow the directions above.

**Date:**

April 21st, 2018

**Eligibility:**

Schools must be registered members of the National Speech and Debate Association to enter this tournament (to register, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org)). Unlike the speech and debate district tournament, there is no minimum point requirement for students competing in Big Questions.

**Entries:**

Schools may initially enter up to six entries in this event. Additional entries will be added to a waitlist, which will be cleared as space permits.

**Registration:**

Registration is now open on the Tabroom.com web. Registration must be completed by Wednesday, April 18th at 6:00 PM (three days prior to the tournament). Online drops and name changes only (no adds) may be made until Friday, April 20th at 8:00 PM.

On the day of the tournament, check-in will begin at 8:00 AM and close at 8:30 AM.

**Supervision Requirement:**

ALL schools participating in the Big Questions Tournament must have a supervising adult who will be present for the duration of the tournament. Unattended students will not be allowed to compete. All students from a school should know who the supervising adult is, and the supervising adult should know what students from the school are in attendance, and how to contact their parents if the need arises.

**Judging Requirements:**

1 judge per every 2 entries, or fraction thereof.

There are no judges for hire at this tournament.

All judges are obligated for the duration of the tournament.

**Pairings and Breaks:**

The first two preliminary rounds of debate will be random. The third and fourth rounds will be hi-low paired within brackets. Following round 4, the top 8 debaters will advance to the quarterfinal round. Breaks will be based off overall record, then total points, then opponent record, then opponent points, then coin flip.

**Qualification:**

The winner of the final round will qualify to NSDA Nationals.

**Schedule:**

The schedule will be accelerated when possible.

8:00-8:30 Registration in Wheeler 113

8:45 Judges’ Meeting in Wheeler 112

9:15 Round 1

10:15 Round 2

11:30 Round 3

1:00 Round 4

2:30 Quarterfinals

3:45 Semifinals

5:00 Finals

5:45 Awards Ceremony in Cafeteria

**Fees**  
$10 per entry.

Fees are due at registration.  Checks should be made payable to "Chesapeake NSDA District".