



The University of Missouri-Columbia
invites you to the annual

Tiger Talk Kickoff

Novice and Varsity Tournament

October 17 & 18, 2025



Dear Coaches,

The Mizzou Debate and Forensics team is pleased to invite you and your team to attend the **Tiger Talk Kickoff Novice and Varsity Tournament**, hosted in collaboration with Columbia Public Schools. The Tiger Talk Kickoff will be hosted on **October 17th and 18th, 2025** at **Rock Bridge High School**, located at [4303 S Providence Rd #7198, Columbia, MO 65203](https://www.rockbridgehigh.org/4303-S-Providence-Rd-7198-Columbia-MO-65203).

Please register through Speechwire by Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00pm. Still, we encourage you to indicate ASAP if your school is attending so we can begin arranging building space. Each school is guaranteed 6 entries in each speech event per division and 4 entries in each debate per division. We will prioritize schools who register early when choosing waitlist additions. Additional entries will be added to a waitlist, and we will do our best to accommodate them as quickly as possible, if possible. **Entry drops without a fee can be made until Monday, October 13th at 7pm.** Any drops made after this time will result in a charge for the entry.

In this invite, you will find information regarding the tournament schedule, events offered, other entry/event information, judging guidelines and signup, and a breakdown of awards that will be given. For any questions about the invite or tournament, feel free to reach out to Dustin Wallace.

Tournament Official Contact Information

Dustin Wallace

President, Mizzou Debate and Forensics

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Tournament Schedule

Friday:

4:30p: R1 CX
 4:45p: R1 PF/LD
 5:45p: R2 PF/LD
 6:15p: R2 CX
 6:45p: R3 PF/LD
 7:45p: R4 PF/LD
 8:00p: R3 CX

Saturday:

8:00a: R4 Policy, Semis PF/LD
 9:30a: R1 IE Draw
 10:00a: R1 IE
 11:00a: R2 IE Draw
 11:30a: R2 IE
 12:30p: Finals CX/PF/LD
 2:00p: Finals IE Draw
 2:30p: Finals IE

Awards to occur ASAP

CX Schedule:

4:30p FRI: R1 CX
 6:15p FRI: R2 CX
 8:00p FRI: R3 CX
 8:00a SAT: R4 Policy
 12:30p SAT: Finals CX/PF/LD

PF/LD Schedule:

4:45p FRI: R1 PF/LD
 5:45p FRI: R2 PF/LD
 6:45p FRI: R3 PF/LD
 7:45p FRI: R4 PF/LD
 8:00a SAT: Semis PF/LD
 12:30p SAT: Finals CX/PF/LD

IE Schedule:

10:00a SAT: R1 IE (Draw 9:30a)
 11:30a SAT: R2 IE (Draw 11:00a)
 2:30p SAT: Finals IE (Draw 2:00p)

Entry/Event Information

Entry Fees:

All entries will be \$8.00 USD. Drops made after October 13th at 7:00 PM will result in a charge.

The following events will be offered:*

<u>Varsity Debate:</u>	- (LD) Lincoln-Douglas - (PF) Public Forum	- (CX) Policy
<u>Novice Debate:</u>	- (LD) Lincoln-Douglas - (PF) Public Forum	- (CX) Policy
<u>Varsity Speech:</u>	- (USX) United States Extemp. - (IX) International Extemp. - (INF) Informative Speaking - (OO) Original Oratory - (RS) Radio Speaking	- (DI) Dramatic Interp. - (HI) Humorous Interp. - (DUO) Duo Interp. - (POI) Program Oral Interp.
<u>Novice Speech:</u>	- (MX) Combined Extemp. - (INF) Informative Speaking - (OO) Original Oratory - (RS) Radio Speaking - (PRO) Prose Reading.	- (DI) Dramatic Interp. - (HI) Humorous Interp. - (DUO) Duo Interp. - (POE) Poetry Reading.
<u>Open Speech:</u>	- (MI) Mock Interviewing**	

*We reserve the right to combine divisions or events in the case of low enrollment.

****Mock Interviewing (MI) information:**

Mock Interviewing is an event intended to give competitors experience with the interviewing process as many of them begin to interview for college admissions and jobs in the coming months/years. This event will run alongside other IEs. Coaches are encouraged to read the rules below, as well as review the sample ballot and judge instructions provided below. The rules for the event are as follows:

- Interviews will take place one at a time, and spectators who are other competitors, in or outside of this event, are not permitted.
- Each interview should last no more than 10 minutes (there is no penalty for going over time – but be mindful of the tournament schedule).
- Judges may conduct the interview using questions only from the sample list, questions only created by themselves, or a mix of both.
- Competitors are permitted to bring a paper copy of their resume to each round if they so choose. Judges can choose if they wish to take it into consideration when questioning/ranking.
- The tournament champion in MI, who will be awarded a \$100 cash scholarship in place of a traditional award, made possible by Colonial Realty, Inc. No other MI awards will be given.

Sample ballot for this event: [☰ Tiger Talk \(MI\) Sample Ballot](#)

Judge instructions and sample questions: [☰ Tiger Talk \(MI\) Judge Instructions](#)

All MSHSAA rules will be used where applicable. For NSDA-only events, NSDA rules apply.

Debate guidelines:

(LD) Lincoln Douglas: 4 minutes of prep time per side (per competitor)
(PF) Public Forum: 3 minutes of prep time per side (per team)
(CX) Policy: 8 minutes of prep time per side (per team)

No maverick teams will be allowed.

Competitors should report to their rooms 15 minutes in advance of their round start time.

Judging Information

Providing Judges:

Each school is required to provide at least one qualified judge for every round of competition and an additional judge for every 20 entries. When necessary, coaches will be asked to judge. It is expected that coaches judge. If a coach is unable to judge, they will be asked to provide an alternative judge promptly.

Judge Guidelines:

- Judges **must** remain in their room until all performances have been viewed unless otherwise directed by a tournament official.
- Judges for varsity and novice events may be coaches, members of the community, former students, parents, and other individuals who are over 21 or have graduated high school.

- For NOVICE ROUNDS OF DEBATE ONLY, judges may be current varsity students who have more than 150 NSDA points.

Judge Signup:

Judges (and coaches!) can be entered into [this Google form](#).

Award Information

Awards for each event will be given to the following:

- All Semifinalists and Finalists in novice and varsity LD, and PF.
- All Finalists in novice and varsity CX.
- The top 4 individual speakers in novice LD, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- The top 4 individual speakers in varsity LD, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- The top 8 individual speakers in novice PF, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- The top 8 individual speakers in varsity PF, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- The top 4 individual speakers in novice CX, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- The top 4 individual speakers in varsity CX, based upon prelim. round speaker points.
- All Finalists in novice MX, INF, OO, DI, HI, DUO, PRO, and POE.
- All Finalists in varsity DX, IX, INF, OO, DI, HI, DUO, and POI.
- The top 6 competitors in open RS.
- The Tournament Champion in MI.

Sweepstakes award guidelines:

- Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three schools in debate.
 - Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three schools in speech.
 - Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three schools in overall performance.
 - Both novice and varsity entries will be considered when awarding sweepstakes points.
 - Points will be given to the top four entries from each school using the following system:
 - IE semifinalist _____ 5 points
 - IE finalist _____ 10 points
 - IE 3rd place _____ 5 points
 - IE 2nd place _____ 10 points
 - IE 1st place _____ 15 points
 - Debate win _____ 2 points
 - Debate semifinalist _____ 10 points
 - Debate finalist _____ 15 points
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Other rules, regulations, and information:

- Each competitor may be entered in 2 events running on the IE schedule, and 1 debate event. Of the two events the competitor is entered in on the IE schedule, only 1 may be a draw event.
- Internet use is permitted. All MSHSAA guidelines will be followed.
- Concessions will be available both Friday and Saturday.

We look forward to hosting you in October,
Mizzou Debate and Forensics