



Dear Esteemed Coaches and Colleagues,

Western High Speech and Debate cordially invites you to the inaugural Cat Claw Classic.

The tournament will be held *in person* at our wonderful sunny campus in Davie, Florida on October 25, 2025. We offer competition in four debate events: Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, Big Questions, and Congressional debate in which only one varsity division of each will compete, with novices welcome to compete in that division to encourage high quality competition and learning. We also offer 8 individual events: Mixed Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, and Program Oral Interpretation. All events are subject to change given limited entries.

We look forward to you joining us for a great weekend of hospitality, competition, and learning from each other!

Sincerely,

Brian Lynn, Director of Speech & Debate

Erica Hansinger, Assistant Director of Speech & Debate

Western Speech and Debate Team

1200 SW 136th Ave, Davie, FL 33325



(954) 871-9330



head coach email: blynn@antioch.edu

Info:

Western High
1200 SW 136th Ave, Davie, FL 33325
October 25, 2025

Contact:

Brian Lynn

Email: BrianAllen.Lynn@browardschools.com

Registration:

All registration will be on Speechwire at <https://www.speechwire.com/c-info.php?tournid=19388>. No in person registration will be permitted. If you face any questions, please email the tournament director. Lunch will be provided at no additional cost, with both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. **Although they are free, please indicate how many of each type you will need within speechwire upon registration.**

Entry Limits:

Due to constraints, there will be entry limits per event and per school.

Event Caps

- All speech events will be capped at 60 entries
- Congressional debate will be capped at 144 entries
- Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum will be capped at 36 entries
- Big Questions will be capped at 24 entries

School Caps (soft)

- Speech events will be capped at 20 entries total
- Congressional Debate will be capped at 8 entries
- Debate events will be capped at 8 entries
- Big Questions will be capped at 8 entries

If a school enters more participants than the set limits, they will be charged an 'excessive entry' fee. Once a school has hit the "soft entry cap" for an event category: (speech, congress, or debate), any additional entries in that event will have an additional \$25 fee which will stack with every additional 5 entries. Ex. A team with 26 entries in speech events will pay entry fees, as well as a \$50 fee (2x\$25) This is done to ensure fairness between the largest institutions and smaller schools, to ensure each participant has the ability to be seen and heard no matter their school's size.

Eligibility:

Only teams representing high schools will be allowed to enter in this tournament. We will not accept independent entries, entries representing a camp, or entries representing a for-profit club. Teams who register will also be expected to have an adult chaperone on campus at all times. This adult is over 21 years

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Events:

We will be offering one open division of Lincoln-Douglas debate, and one open division of Public Forum Debate. Along with that we will offer Big Questions and Congressional debate. Speech events will consist of Mixed Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, and Program Oral Interpretation. All events are subject to change given limited entries, and will follow NSDA rules.

Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Debate:

Public Forum will follow the 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2 format with 3 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, points (drop high/low), total points, opponent's seed, and random methodology. Both divisions will break all 4-2 or better records. Both PF divisions will use the September/October topic from the NSDA.

Lincoln-Douglas will follow the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format with 4 minutes of prep time. Ties will be broken based on record, points (drop high/low), total points, opponent's Seed, and random methodology. We will break all 4-2 or better records. LD will use the September/October topic from the NSDA.

Congressional Debate:

Congressional debate will be one open competition consisting of two preliminary rounds, hard capped at 2.5 hours, with a final round. Please submit legislation to the tournament director at brianallen.lynn@browardschools.com by October 5th. Submission is not required but is highly encouraged. Rounds will be no more than 16 people, but the target is 12. The final round will contain an equal number of competitors from each preliminary chamber, and will be no larger than 18. Each round will be designated as the Senate, and will feature direct questioning.

Entry Deadlines:

We will begin accepting entries on September 1st through speechwire. The deadline for entering competitors is October 12th. All late entries after this date should be emailed to the tournament director, brianallen.lynn@browardschools.com, and their participation is subject to approval determined by resources, space, etc.

Judges:

One trained judge is required for every 5 entries in individual speech events; 1 trained judge for every 2 entries in LD, PF, and BQ; and 1 trained judge for every 3 entries in congressional debate. Because this tournament will have parliamentarians in congress rounds, schools MUST designate at least 1 qualified parliamentarian to the tournament director via email at brianallen.lynn@browardschools.com if they have

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Tournament Day

To facilitate a fair and quick tournament, please follow directions as promptly and exactly as possible:

Coaches:

Tournament registration will open at 7:00am in the Media Center (second floor). There, coaches can register their teams for the day, pay any fees BY CHECK ONLY, and collect meal tickets. On-Site registration is NOT the time to report last minute drops; report drops to the tournament director via email ASAP, being clear on which student and which event is being dropped to avoid disruption.

Judges:

Judges are REQUIRED to check-in on Saturday morning to confirm their attendance in the media center. Judge call will begin at 7:30, at which point a short meeting will commence to outline the schedule and any updates. Judges MUST NOT arrive later than 7:30, as the meeting is important to staying current. To start the tournament promptly, proceedings will begin at 8:00am.

Competitors:

Students will be directed to the cafeteria upon arrival and between rounds. Please coordinate an adult to chaperone students from each team in the cafeteria at all times before and after rounds.

Arrival:

All judges, coaches, and competitors should arrive, enter, and park through the student parking lot, where there is a large lot as well as a drop off loop system available. This is the lot along SW 14th St, on the southernmost side of the school.

Food:

The cost of registration covers a lunch meal for all competitors, for which teams will receive meal tickets upon registration and will be distributed in the cafeteria at the designated lunch time. Meals for judges and coaches will be distributed in the judge lounge (media center) and coordinated by our generous booster club. We have only non-vegetarian and vegetarian options- **although they are of no additional cost, please indicate how many of each you will need for the tournament within speechwire.**

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Fees and Deadlines

Hired Judges:

We offer hired judges for \$75 in individual speech events, but do NOT have hired judges for any debate events, LD, PF, BQ, SC. Although hired judging is offered and available, please do not rely on them. It is highly encouraged to make an effort to bring judges to offer a wide variety of judges to our competitors. Hired judges MUST be indicated upon online registration, and will not be available for schools registering entries past the deadline via email.

Drops:

All drops reported after October 20th will forfeit their entry fee. All drops reported after October 22nd will forfeit their entry fee as well as incur an additional \$15 drop fee. Drops which occur on the day of the tournament, or no-show competitors will forfeit their entry fee, and incur a \$45 late drop fee, but will not be subject to the initial \$15 drop fee.

Entry Fees:

Cost of entry is (\$35) per entry in individual speech events and congress; (\$70) per Duo team; (\$35) per entry in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; (\$70) per Public Forum team. These fees INCLUDE lunch for competitors. Please make all checks payable to ("Western Highschool")

Competitor Entry:

September 1st through October 12th

Deadline for Submitting Legislation:

October 1st, email to brianallen.lynn@browardschools.com in NSDA format

Last Day to Drop without Penalty:

October 20th

Day of Tournament:

October 25th

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