2025 Fran Tanner Open

Dear Colleagues:

We welcome you to join us September 26-27, 2025 for two days of competition in both speech and debate events. We will be offering competition in the 11 NST events and both IPDA & BP debate.

This tournament has one main goal: we want to help prepare students for the upcoming competitive season. Lots of practice and educational ballots are the takeaways students and coaches should expect. All speech events are offered in an open division so new competitors can watch experienced students perform. BP debate will also be offered in one open division which we intend to power match after the first round based on entries. IPDA will offer three divisions with novice reserved for students with *little to no prior debate experience, including high school*. Please keep this philosophy in mind when making your entry.

The tournament is designed to maximize your return on investment. We will begin on Friday afternoon with three rounds of speech competition for each pattern. Then, on Saturday there will be six IPDA rounds running concurrently to five BP rounds. While no out rounds will be held, we will recognize the top performing students and programs.

Additionally, in recognition of CSI being a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), we are proud to continue our HSI showcase event. We would like to welcome presenters whose speech topics center on Hispanic heritage, issues, advocacy, *or* those who identify as Hispanic to perform in the showcase. Speeches from any performance area (including limited prep.) are welcome and speakers may perform in Spanish if they so desire. This showcase is intended to provide space to recognize, highlight, and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic students attending CSI, and those participating in our forensics programs. It is entirely volunteer; please email me with student names and event types of those who would like to participate in this event.

Late September is usually warm and wonderful in the Magic Valley. We will provide a list of restaurant suggestions and have worked with our community to secure blocks at several hotels. We are looking forward to hosting you all, and helping students polish their events before the start of the competitive season.

Sincerely,

Andy Orr

Associate Professor of Communication

Director of Forensics

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**Fran Tanner Open – September 26-27, 2025**

*ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, September 22, 2025 by 5:00 PM*

**PATTERN A:** Extemporaneous, Persuade, After-Dinner, Drama, Poetry, Program

**PATTERN B:** Impromptu, Informative, Prose, Duo, Communication Analysis

**Debate:** Individual IPDA (Novice, Junior, Open), British Parliamentary

* Students must not use any materials from any competition prior to September 1, 2025.
* Competitors may enter a maximum of two events in each IE pattern (max of 4).
* Debaters are limited to entry in one type/division.

**Schedule:**

**Friday, September 26, 2025**

**11:00 Registration & tabulation will be in Taylor 248**

 **Student gathering area is the Fine Arts Atrium**

11:45 Extemp Draw (Taylor 276/277)

12:00 – 1:15 Pattern A Round 1 (Extemp 12:15)

1:15 – 2:30 Pattern B Round 1

2:30 Extemp Draw

2:45 – 4:00 Pattern A Round 2 (Extemp 3:00)

4:00 – 5:15 Pattern B Round 2

5:15 Extemp Draw

5:30 – 6:45 Pattern A Round 3 (Extemp 5:45)

6:45 – 8:00 Pattern B Round 3

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**

8:00 – 9:30 IPDA Round 1 8:30 BP Check-in

9:45 – 11:15 IPDA Round 2 9:00 – 11:00 BP Round 1

11:30 – 1:00 IPDA Round 3 11:00 – 1:00 BP Round 2

1:00 – 2:00 HSI Showcase (Fine Arts Auditorium) & Lunch

2:15 – 3:45 IPDA Round 4 2:00 – 3:45 BP Round 3

4:00 – 5:30 IPDA Round 5 3:45 – 5:15 BP Round 4

5:45 – 7:30 IPDA Round 6 5:15 – 7:00 BP Round 5

8:00 Awards (Fine Arts Auditorium)

**TOURNAMENT**

Please use [www.SpeechWire.com](http://www.SpeechWire.com)

Administrative Fee: $31 per school

Individual Events: $11 per entry

I.E. Entries not covered by a judge: $36 per entry

 (1 judge = 8 entries)

Individual IPDA debater: $26 per debater

Individual IPDA debater not covered by a judge: $61 per debater

 (1 judge = 4 debaters)

BP debaters: $42 per team

BP debaters not covered by a judge: $91 per team

 (1 judge = 2 teams)

**Fees & Payments:** Your final invoice will be emailed on Tuesday, September 24, 2025. If your business office needs it earlier, we can certainly accommodate. Our preferred way to pay entry fees will be using the CSI Foundation website: [https://foundation.csi.edu](https://foundation.csi.edu/foundation-events/). You may also pay in cash, or you may bring a check payable to the **CSI Speech & Debate Fund**. Please know, we will work to accommodate any programs; fees should never be a barrier to education. They are intended to help us cover the tournament costs.

**Judges:** We will do our best to provide experienced local judges. Hiring judges may be possible, but this can be challenging in a city of just over 50,000. Please bring your required number of qualified judges, and we would appreciate clean judges that can provide feedback to your own competitors. The judges that you bring for speech events must be college graduates or must have exhausted their collegiate eligibility. Debate judges can be any person in the public, commonly known as a lay judge.

**Ballots:** All ballots will be emailed to judges and completed electronically. Please ensure your judges are entered on forensicstournamen.net and have their own portable electronic device(s). Also, let me know if you have a judge that would prefer paper ballots; we can make the appropriate adjustments.

**Awards:** There will be bronze, silver, and gold medallions for the top three performances in induvial events (top six for limited preparation). We will also have bronze, silver, and gold medallions to recognize the top 20% of competitors in debate (see table below). We will provide team overall sweepstakes recognition for the top three programs based on squad efficiency.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Field Size | Bronze | Silver | Gold |
| 3-10  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10-20 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 20-30 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 30-40 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 40-50 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 50-60 | 6 | 3 | 3 |

**CAMPUS AND AREA NOTES**

**Directions to Campus:** Take care as you travel using I-84 through Idaho, there is a lot of construction near exit 173. As you cross the Perrine Bridge, there is a new visitor’s center and overlook – nice spot for a team photo. The US 93 highway becomes Blue Lakes Boulevard as you head south. Turn right when you reach the stoplight on Falls Avenue and head west for about ½ a mile to reach the south entrance of campus. The campus map located on the [CSI web site](https://www.csi.edu/about/maps.aspx) and should guide you the rest of the way to tournament headquarters. If you need any assistance, please feel free to contact us.

**Hotels:** We have a great set of accommodations on Fillmore St. close to the college that are all managed by Safari Hospitality.

Hampton Inn: $119

Holiday Inn Express: $119 standards & $139 suites

Quality Inn: $99 standards & $109 suites

Schools looking to take advantage of these rates should contact Tami Goedhart the director of sales by phone 208.733.2098 or email tami@safarihospitality.com with your dates and number of rooms.

**Parking:** Every lot on campus is free, and no permits are needed.

**Smoking/Vaping:** CSI has a comprehensive policy banning smoking and vaping on campus. Please ask your students to respect this ban. If they need to imbibe, the quickest route off-campus is directly south, across Falls Avenue. Campus security will enforce this ban which may include removal from school grounds.

**Equity Concerns:** The inherent beauty of forensics activities is their ability to challenge students’ assumptions, exposing them to ideas in a safe, supportive activity. If there are instances where a participant, judge, or observer feels that this educational environment has been compromised, they should report it to their coach/director who will determine the appropriate course of action as per their college policies.

Other concerns including discrimination and harassment should be brought to the attention of the tournament director. Additionally, the College of Southern Idaho does have anonymous reporting for concerns, accessible via weblink at the bottom of the [www.csi.edu](http://www.csi.edu) page.

**Description of Events**

**Pattern A:**

**Extemporaneous Speaking:** Contestants will be given three questions in the general area of current events. They choose one and have 30 minutes to prepare an original speech that is the sole work of the student (without coaching). The maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes, and judges should provide visual time signals. Limited notes are permitted. Posting of topics for competitors will be staggered so that students may speak in listed order.

**Dramatic Interpretation:** A cutting or script which represents one or more characters from a play, or plays, of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including introduction.

**Persuasive Speaking:** An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values, or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may, or may not, be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and sighted in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**After-Dinner Speaking:** An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a nightclub act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may, or may not, be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Minimal notes are permitted. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Poetry Interpretation:** A selection, or selections, of poetic material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Programs containing play cuttings and prose works are prohibited and should be entered in Program Oral Interpretation. Use of manuscript is required. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including introduction.

**Program Oral Interpretation:** A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genres means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (i.e., a poem included in a short story that only appears in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre). Use of manuscript is required. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including original introduction and/or transitions.

**Pattern B:**

**Impromptu Speaking:** An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Speakers will be prompted by a set of quotations and will choose one on which to present. The prompts will be the same for all speakers, so competitors are not permitted to be within the audience until after they have spoken. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking, and time signals should be provided (orally counting up when preparing and visually counting down when speaking). Timing commences after the student has had an opportunity to read the prompts. Limited notes are permitted.

**Informative Speaking:** An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim of informing the audience. Audio-visual aids may, or may not, be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including introduction.

**Prose Interpretation:** A selection, or selections, of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including introduction.

**Dramatic Duo:** An interpretation of literature involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two performers using a cutting from a manuscript play. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio, and may humorous or serious in nature. This is not an acting event; therefore, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. The presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be on the off-stage audience and not toward the other performer. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes, including introduction.

**Communication Analysis:** An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication artifact such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may, or may not, be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Debate:**

**Individual IPDA:** Postings, topics strikes, and preparation will all be in the Taylor building. This tournament will follow IPDA guidelines for divisions. Novice division is reserved for students with fewer than 8 debate tournament competitions of any kind. Junor division is limited to students with fewer than 16 debate tournaments of any kind. The Varsity division is for all other students who have not yet graduated or have participated in forensics for less than 10 semesters while representing a college or university.

In addition, we will follow the guidelines for preparation, timers, and the prohibition against physical evidence. Prior to the round, there are no restrictions during the 30-minute preparation period to prepare and receive advice for the development of their advocacy. During the round, students may only use analog timers and notes they have prepared; students may not use computers or devices to access the internet. Judges should refrain from providing oral feedback after the round and instead leave detailed comments on their ballot.

**British Parliamentary:** Role call and topic announcement will occur in the Hepworth building. This tournament will utilize WUDC guidelines including a 7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7 format with fifteen (15) minutes of preparation. Within the four rounds, we will strive to provide teams with the opportunity to debate in each of the positions. We anticipate there will be rounds where students will debate teams from their own school.

We will utilize two judges in each round and have allotted time for them to provide constructive, educational feedback. While we encourage consensus judging, we ask that deference be given to the chair if a decision has not been reached after ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the debate. Additionally, we ask that this decision be submitted to tabulation prior to any oral critiques. The rounds are designed to provide ample time for providing educational feedback to all competitors.