**Ohio Forensics Association’s “The Heart of It All” Tournament**

**Hosted by Otterbein University**

**Westerville, Ohio**

**November 8, 2025**

**IN PERSON!! The Ohio Forensics Association is pleased to invite you to a forensics tournament at Otterbein University on Saturday, November 8, open to the public for observation and to students for intercollegiate competition.**

**We will be offering four rounds of IPDA debate with appropriate elimination rounds. There are 13 individual events, including the standard OFA speech events and 2025-2026 experimental event in interviewing, in a two preliminary round and one final round formatted tournament on Saturday. Awards will be presented to all finalists and to the top three school sweepstakes winners.**

**You will be able to enjoy Ohio hospitality while you are here.**

**We look forward to seeing you in Ohio, “the heart of it all”!**

**Mark Rittenour, OFA President, Susan Millsap, Host**

**The University of Akron Otterbein University**

**Akron, Ohio Westerville, Ohio**



**Tournament Schedule**

**Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025**

**8:00 -- Registration in Roush Hall Lobby**

**8:30 – Extemp/Broadcast draw and Debate topics draw**

**9:00 – Round 1 Bracket A and IPDA Round 1 (debaters always should do debate 1st then IE)**

**10:00 – Extemp/Broadcast draw and Debate topics draw**

**10:30 – Round 2 Bracket A events and IPDA Round 2**

**11:30 – Debate topics draw**

**11:45** – **Round 1 Bracket B events**

**12:00 – IPDA Round 3**

**1:15 – Debate topics draw**

**1:30 – Round 2 Bracket B events**

**1:45 – IPDA Round 4**

**2:30 – Extemp/Broadcast draw (finals) and topics draw for first elimination round for IPDA**

**3:00 – Finals Bracket A and first IPDA elimination round**

**3:45 – Topics draw for IPDA elimination round**

**4:15 – IPDA elimination round (with rounds continuing as needed)**

**4:30 – Finals Bracket B**

**6:15 – Awards in Roush Hall**

**Bracket A Events:** Extemp, Broadcast, Duo, Rhetorical Criticism, POI, Poetry, Persuasion

**Bracket B Events:** Impromptu, Interviewing Prose, Informative, After Dinner, Dramatic Interpretation

**Entries:** Please enter the tournament at [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) by **5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4. Students may enter a maximum of three events per bracket**. **Debaters may enter only one speech event *total* (not one per flight) and may not enter Extemp or Broadcast Journalism. Students may not enter both Extemp and Broadcast.** Changes can be made with no penalty until 12:00 PM Wednesday. Late drops are $10 each. No charge for name changes.

**Judges:** Please provide 1 judge for every 2 debaters (debate slots must be covered) and 1 judge for every 6 IE slots. Uncovered debate slots, if possible, are an additional $50 each and uncovered IE slots are an additional $10 each.

**Fees: IE slots are $10.00 each. Each uncovered I.E. slot costs an additional $10.00. DEBATE slots are $15.00 each. Each uncovered debate slot will cost an additional $50. Schools MUST cover their DEBATE entry. If a team fails to cover its debate slots, the OFA reserves the right to ask the coach to drop part of the team’s debate students from the tournament.**

**A pizza lunch with appropriate accompaniments and snacks is provided by the tournament, at a cost of $6 per person. Gluten free options will be available.**

**Parking:**

Ample parking is available in campus lots surrounding Roush Hall, the tournament “headquarters.”

**Bracket A Events:**

[EXT] EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING   
For each round, contestants will select one of three topics on a current national, international, economic, or social issue/event. The contestant will have 30 minutes to prepare a 5-7 minute speech on the topic selected. Notes are permissible, but should be kept to a minimum. Adhering to NFA policy, internet access is permitted for research. 7 minute maximum time limit.

[BRJ] BROADCAST JOURNALISM

For each round, contestants receive a selection of media stories drawn from the past week and will have 30 minutes to prepare a 5 minute news broadcast. Notes are permissible and the speaker should perform facing the judge. Contestants can include original call letters and should have transitional remarks.  **Broadcast packets will be distributed electronically.** The broadcast should be organized, clear, well-delivered and adhere to the time frame of the event.  Contestants are encouraged to time themselves. 5 minute maximum time limit.

[DUO] DUO INTERPRETATIONContestants perform a cutting or program from a play or other material, humorous or serious, is presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event; thus, costumes, props, etc. are not permitted. Manuscript is required and focus should be offstage. 8-10 minute time limit.

[RCA] RHETORICAL/COMMUNICATION ANALYSISContestants deliver a memorized original critical analysis of any significant communication event. Any legitimate critical methodology is permissible, as long as it serves to open up the communication event for analysis. 8-10 minute time limit.

[POI] PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION  
A program of thematically linked selections of literary merit selected from at least 2 of the 3 genres of competitive interpretation (prose, poetry, drama). Nontraditional material may also be included. Original comments and/or transitions are permitted. Manuscripts are required. 8-10 minute time limit.

[POE] POETRY INTERPRETATIONThe contestant presents a program of poetic literature. Original introductory comments and/or transitions are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Manuscripts are required. 8-10 minute time limit.

[PER] PERSUASIONContestants deliver an original memorized speech to convince, move to action, or to inspire on an issue of significance. 8-10 minute time limit.

**Bracket B Events:**

[IMP] IMPROMPTU SPEAKINGContestants receive prompts consisting of quotations and/or cartoons from which to create an analytical speech. A total of 7 minutes may be divided between preparations and speaking. Contestants should speak at least 3 minutes. All contestants in the same section will receive the same topic stimulus. Look for space-themed stimuli. 7 minute maximum time limit.

[INT] INTERVIEWING

The 2025-2026 OFA experimental event is Interviewing. Contestants will be asked standard and behavioral interviewing questions during a 5-minute period of time. Students should be judged on answers, poise, demeanor, communication style, use of language, nonverbal communication and other professionalism factors. Students SHOULD NOT BRING A RESUME TO THE JUDGE(s).

[PRO] PROSE INTERPRETATION The contestant presents a program of prose literature. Original introductory comments and transitional remarks are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections in 1st, 2nd or 3rd person. Plays are not permitted and manuscript is required. 8-10 minute time limit.

[INF] INFORMATIVE SPEAKINGThe contestant delivers a memorized original factual speech on a realistic subject to fulfill a general information need of the audience. Visual/auditory aids which supplement/reinforce the message are permitted. 8-10 minute time limit.

[ADS] AFTER DINNER SPEAKINGEach contestant presents an original memorized speech with the purpose of making a serious point through the use of humor. The speech should reflect the spirit of a humorous, comedic speech, not a stand-up comedy routine. 8-10 minute time limit.

[DI] DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION  
Contestants present a cutting, which represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Original introductory comments and/or transitions are permitted. Programs may consist of single or multiple selections. Manuscripts are required. 8-10 minute time limit

**DEBATE:**

[IPDA] INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATEIPDA utilizes a one-on-one format in which one debater takes the side of the affirmative where they have the burden of advocating and proving the resolution, following IPDA rules (<http://www.ipdadebate.info/index.html> ). The other debater takes the side of the negative where they refute the affirmative's case. For each round, the two debaters are given five possible resolutions. The negative begins the topic selection by striking one resolution, then the affirmative strikes one resolution. The negative strikes again. Thus, the affirmative has two resolutions to choose from. The affirmative then strikes one of the remaining resolutions, selecting the other as the topic for the round. After the topic has been selected, both debaters have 30 minutes to prepare a case. [30 MIN] IPDA Prep. Time from Topic Draw.

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| **IPDA Debate** |
| [5 MIN] Affirmative Constructive  [2 MIN] Negative Cross Examination  [6 MIN] Negative Constructive  [2 MIN] Affirmative Cross Examination  [3 MIN] Affirmative Rebuttal  [5 MIN] Negative Rebuttal  [3 MIN] Affirmative Rebuttal/Closing Remarks |

[30 MIN] IPDA Prep. Time from Topic Draw.