



Mizzou Debate and Forensics

2026 Tiger Talk Kickoff Tournament Invite

Last Updated June 29, 2026

***CYAN** highlight indicates new information or changes from last year. Coaches should still read the full document as not all changes will be marked this way, just the important/big disclaimers.

This is a living document. If you are viewing the invite in .pdf or .docx format, we encourage you to visit and save the link to the invite where live edits will be made at <https://tinyurl.com/TTK2026>. Major edits to the tournament invite made after August 1 will be highlighted in **GREEN.

Dear Coaches,

On behalf of Mizzou Debate and Forensics, the premier collegiate competitive speech and debate program at the University of Missouri, I am excited to invite you to the 2026 Tiger Talk Kickoff, an annual Novice and Varsity Tournament hosted in collaboration with Columbia Public Schools. This year's Tiger Talk Kickoff will be hosted on **October 16th and 17th, 2026** at **Hickman High School**, located at [1104 N Providence Rd. Columbia, MO 65203](#).

The 2026 Tiger Talk Kickoff will be a NIETOC bid tournament. Students may compete in both debate and multiple individual events, although some restrictions on cross-entry are in place to support a tournament which operates on-schedule and adapts to constraints. Each student may compete in one format of debate and up to two individual events. Internet use is permitted. All MSHSAA guidelines will be followed.

We encourage you to indicate ASAP if your school is attending so we can begin arranging building space, though **registration must take place through Speechwire by Tuesday, October 6th at 5:00pm**. Each school is guaranteed 6 entries in each speech event per division and 4 entries in each debate per division. Additional entries will be added to a waitlist, and we will do our best to accommodate them as quickly as possible, if possible. We will prioritize **schools who can provide judges** and schools who register early when selecting waitlist additions. Entry **drops without a fee can be made until Monday, October 12th at 5:00pm**. Any drops made after this time will result in a charge for the entry.

A concession stand will be available both Friday and Saturday.

We strive to provide a welcoming and safe environment for students, coaches, and community members in attendance. If you believe there are special circumstances which I, as the TD or we, as the host team should be aware of, do not hesitate to reach out.

See you in October!

Dustin Wallace (he/him/his)

President, Mizzou Debate and Forensics

Tournament Director, Tiger Talk Kickoff

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Tournament Schedule

Friday, October 16

04:30 PM – R1 CX
 04:45 PM – R1 PF/LD
 05:45 PM – R2 PF/LD
 06:00 PM – R2 CX
 06:45 PM – R3 PF/LD
 07:30 PM – R3 CX
 07:45 PM – R4 PF/LD

Saturday, October 17

08:30 AM – R4 CX, Semis PF/LD
 10:00 AM – Extemp Draw
 10:30 AM – R1 Individual Events
 11:30 PM – Extemp Draw
 12:00 PM – R2 Individual Events
 01:00 PM – Finals CX, Finals PF/LD
 02:30 PM – Extemp Draw
 03:00 PM – Finals Individual Events

Awards to follow as soon as possible.

Debate (CX)

04:30 PM, Fri – R1 CX
 06:00 PM, Fri – R2 CX
 07:30 PM, Fri – R3 CX
 08:30 AM, Sat – R4 CX
 01:00 PM, Sat – Finals CX

Debate (PF/LD)

04:45 PM, Fri – R1 PF/LD
 05:45 PM, Fri – R2 PF/LD
 06:45 PM, Fri – R3 PF/LD
 07:45 PM, Fri – R4 PF/LD
 08:30 AM, Sat – Semis PF/LD
 01:00 PM, Sat – Finals PF/LD

Individual Events

10:00 AM, Sat – Extemp Draw
 10:30 AM, Sat – R1 Individual Events
 11:30 PM, Sat – Extemp Draw
 12:00 PM, Sat – R2 Individual Events
 02:30 PM, Sat – Extemp Draw
 03:00 PM, Sat – Finals Individual Events

Entry Cost & Event Information

Events, Divisions, Abbreviations & Costs

Public Forum	Varsity, Novice	PF	\$12
Policy Debate	Varsity, Novice	CX	\$12
Lincoln-Douglas	Varsity, Novice	LD	\$10
Duo Interpretation	Varsity, Novice	DUO	\$10
Informative Speaking	Varsity, Novice	INF	\$8
Original Oratory	Varsity, Novice	OO	\$8
Radio Speaking	Varsity, Novice	RS	\$8
Humorous Interpretation	Varsity, Novice	HI	\$8
Dramatic Interpretation	Varsity, Novice	DI	\$8
United States Extemporaneous	Varsity	USX	\$8
International Extemporaneous	Varsity	IX	\$8
Program Oral Interpretation	Varsity	POI	\$8
Mixed (Novice) Extemporaneous	Novice	MX	\$8
Prose Reading	Novice	PRO	\$8
Poetry Reading	Novice	POE	\$8
Mock Interviewing	Open (Combined)	MI	\$8

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

Divisional Requirements

Varsity	A varsity competitor is defined as a student who fulfils 1+ of the following criteria: ☐ earned the degree of distinction (has ≥ 250 NSDA points) ☐ is in their 3+ year of competing ☐ is in their 2+ year of competing but has qualified to and attended the NSDA national or MSHSAA state tournament. Students who are not classified as varsity competitors <i>may still</i> enter and compete in the varsity division.
Novice	A novice competitor is defined as a student who does not fulfil any of the three criteria outlined in the varsity section above. In other words, a novice competitor is one who is in their 1 or 2 year of speech and debate competition and has not qualified to and attended the NSDA national or MSHSAA state tournament. Students who are not classified as novice competitors <i>may not</i> enter and compete in the novice division.
Open (Combined)	All students qualify for the Open (Combined) division.
Special Scenarios & Guidelines: - If a student is in their 2 year of competition in speech events but their 1 year in debate, they may enter in either division of speech or debate. - If a student is in their 2 year of competition in speech events and has qualified to and attended the NSDA national or MSHSAA state tournament for competition in speech but they are in their 1 year in debate, they should enter in varsity speech events but may enter in novice debate. - If a student is in their 2 year of competition in debate events but their 1 year in speech, they may enter in either division of speech or debate. - If a student is in their 2 year of competition in debate events and has qualified to and attended the NSDA national or MSHSAA state tournament for competition in debate but they are in their 1 year of speech competition, they should enter in varsity debate events but may enter in novice speech. - Students in their 3+ year of competition, regardless of experience in speech or debate events, may only enter in varsity speech and debate events. - Any student at any competition level, including students in their 3+ year of competition, may enter in our open division event (Mock Interviewing).	

Event Guidelines

- All MSHSAA rules will be used where applicable. For NSDA-only events, NSDA rules apply.
- Students may enter in 2 speech and 1 debate event. Only 1 speech event may be a draw event.
- Competitors should report to their rooms 15 minutes in advance of their round start time.
- Debate Guidelines
 - Prep time shall be granted to each debater/team:
 - In Lincoln-Douglas, **4 minutes of prep time per competitor** per round
 - In Public Forum, **3 minutes of prep time per team** per round
 - In Policy Debate, **8 minutes of prep time per team** per round
 - No maverick teams will be allowed.

- Mock Interviewing
 - 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 will be awarded a cash scholarship in place of a traditional award. No other MI awards will be given.
- **Judge Instructions & Ballot:** <https://tinyurl.com/TTK-MockInterviewing>

Judging Information

Providing Judges

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.

Mizzou Debate and Forensics is entirely student-operated by the president with the assistance of the executive board. This means we operate without a traditional coaching staff and lack the awareness/presence on the University campus and surrounding area that many other collegiate programs typically have. **Though we will do our best to recruit as many judges as possible, this notion makes it absolutely vital that schools bring or recruit as many judges as they can.**

Schools who have an excess of entries and very few judges may be charged an additional uncovered judge fee at the discretion of the Tournament Director and tournament staff.

We recognize that some schools may have alumni that are now part of the Mizzou Debate and Forensics program. **If a student is a member of Mizzou Debate and Forensics, they do *not* qualify as a judge for your school and will not be counted accordingly.** These students are expected to work day-of operations and will only judge if time and space allows, which is indeterminable until day-of.

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 open/novice) events:
 - Coaches, members of the community, former students, parents, and other individuals who do not have a bias toward or affiliation with a student in a round.
- Judges for novice rounds only:
 - Varsity students who have earned the degree of excellence (≥ 150 NSDA points). Tournament staff will be checking student points prior to allowing them to judge.

Award Information

Competitor Awards

The following competitors will receive an award:

- All Semifinalists and Finalists in novice and varsity LD, and PF.
- All Finalists in novice and varsity CX.
- The top 4 individual speakers in each division of LD, based on prelim. speaker points.
- The top 4 individual speakers in each division of PF, based on prelim. speaker points.
- The top 4 individual speakers in each division of CX, based on prelim. speaker points.
- All Finalists in novice MX, INF, OO, DI, HI, DUO, PRO, POE, and RS.
- All Finalists in varsity DX, IX, INF, OO, DI, HI, DUO, POI, and RS.
- The Tournament Champion in MI.

Competitor Awards

Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top school in debate and top school in speech.

Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three schools overall.

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