

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

TRAILBLAZER SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT

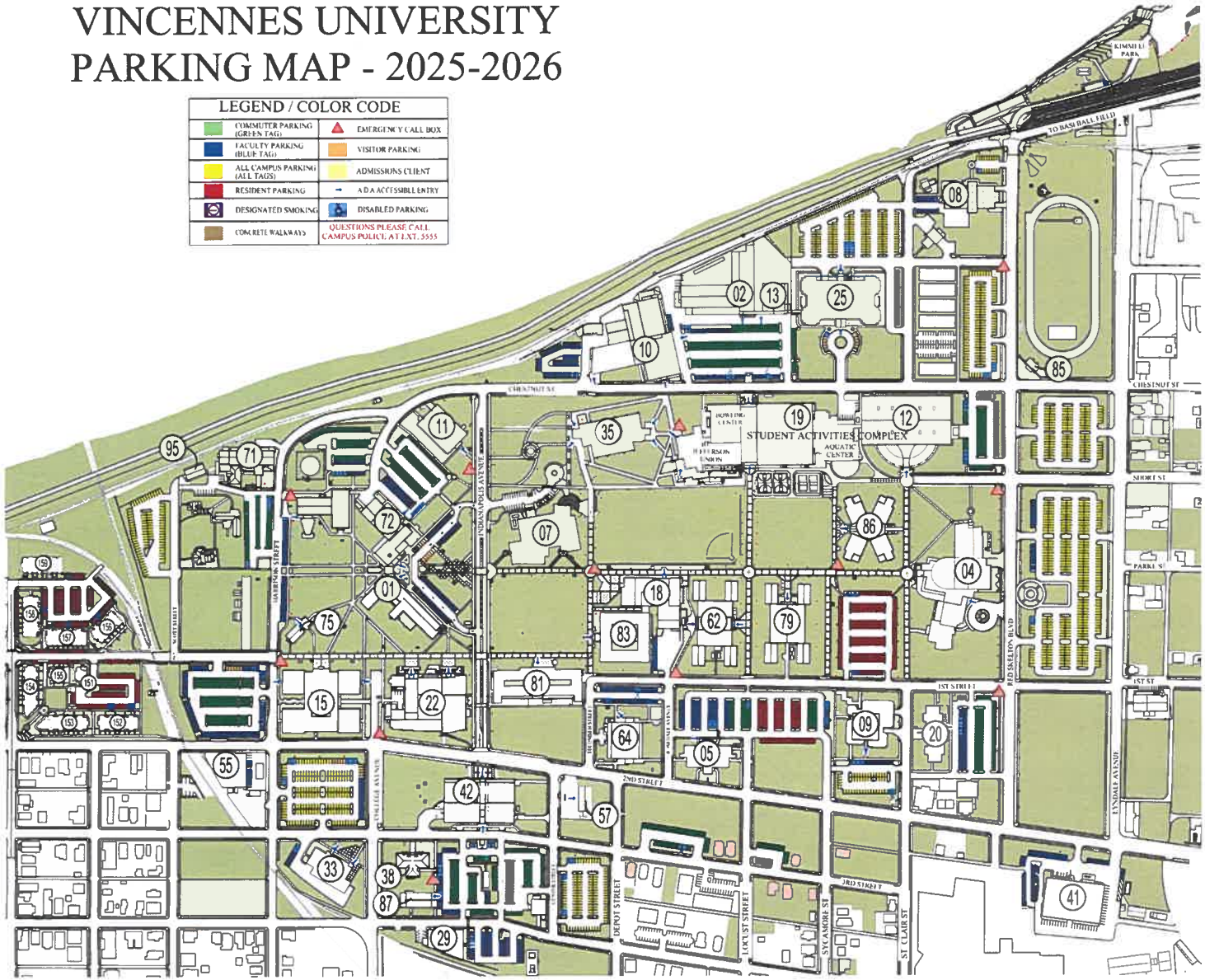
November 21, 2026

JUDGE'S GUIDE

To access your ballots:
www.live.speechwire.com

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY
PARKING MAP - 2025-2026

LEGEND / COLOR CODE			
	COMMUTER PARKING (GREEN TAG)		EMERGENCY CALL BOX
	FACULTY PARKING (BLUE TAG)		VISITOR PARKING
	ALL CAMPUS PARKING (ALL TAGS)		ADMISSIONS CLIENT
	RESIDENT PARKING		A.D.A ACCESSIBLE ENTRY
	DESIGNATED SMOKING		DISABLED PARKING
	CONCRETE WALKWAYS		QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL CAMPUS POLICE AT EXT. 5555

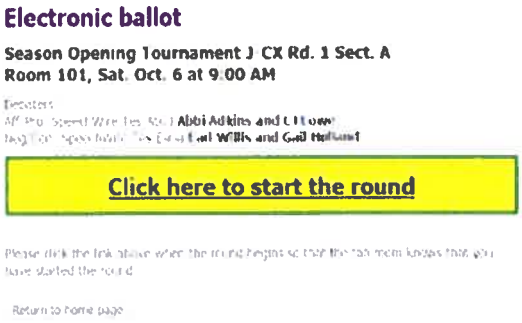


BY BUILDING NUMBER

01 WAB	M W. WELSH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 16 W. INDIANAPOLIS AVE.
02 ATB	AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUILDING 1350 N. CHESTNUT ST.
04 RSPAC	RED SKELTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 20 RED SKELTON BOULEVARD
05 BB	THOMAS W. WATHEN BUSINESS BUILDING 1320 N. SECOND ST.
07 CHS	CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCE & LEARNING INNOVATION 101 W. INDIANAPOLIS AVE.
08 CTB	CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY BUILDING 324 W. RED SKELTON BOULEVARD
09 HSB	HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG 121 E. ST. CLAIR ST.
10 TB	TECHNOLOGY BUILDING/GEBNER RESIDENCE HALL 1300 N. CHESTNUT ST.
11 RBG	RAY C. BELESS GYMNASIUM 116 W. INDIANAPOLIS AVE.
13 ABB	AUTO BODY BUILDING 1400 N. CHESTNUT ST.
15 SHC	SHIRCLIFF HUMANITIES CENTER 130 E. HARRISON ST.
18 TDC	TECUMSEH DINING CENTER 15 E. ROSEDALE ST.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX	
12 SRC	DONALD G. BELL STUDENT REC. CENTER 1600 SHORT STREET
19 PEC	PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX 1401 N. CHESTNUT ST.
19 PEC	AQUATIC CENTER 1401 N. CHESTNUT ST.
19 PEC	BOWLING CENTER 1401 N. CHESTNUT ST.
19 PEC	JEFFERSON UNION 1401 N. CHESTNUT ST.
20 PMSC	PHILLIP M. SUMMERS CENTER 118 E. ST. CLAIR ST.
22 LRC	SHAKE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER (LIBRARY) 130 E. COLLEGE AVE.
25 ICAT	INDIANA CENTER FOR APPLIED TECH. 1500 N. CHESTNUT ST.
29 YB	ZELLA YOUNG / PRIMARY CARE CLINIC 1023 N. FOURTH ST.
33 AD	CENTER FOR ART & DESIGN 921 N. THIRD ST.
35 UH	UPDIKE HALL - MATH, SCIENCE & ENGINEERING 1251 N. CHESTNUT ST.
38 DC	LOUIE O. DAYSON FOUNDATION & ALUMNI CENTER 1009 N. THIRD ST.
41 PP	PHYSICAL PLANT 1719 N. SECOND ST.
42 BSU	ISAAC K. BECKES STUDENT UNION 1101 N. SECOND ST.
55 WTC	WELDING TECH CENTER/PURCHASING/ARCH. SERVICES 819 / 817 N. SECOND ST.
57 VUPD	VINCENNES UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 1201 N. SECOND ST.
62 VH	FRANCIS VIGO RESIDENCE HALL 3 E. LOCUST
64 DH	WALTER A. DAVIS HALL 1200 N. SECOND ST.
71 GA	ROBERT E. GREEN ACTIVITIES CENTER 120 W. HARRISON ST.
72 GVH	GOVERNOR'S HALL/ ADMISSIONS 20 W. INDIANAPOLIS AVE.
75 MCC	MARIA CREEK CHAPEL 36 E. HARRISON ST.
79 GH	MARIE ELIZABETH GODARE RESIDENCE HALL 1420 N. FIRST ST.
81 CH	GEORGE ROGERS CLARK RESIDENCE HALL 1 W. INDIANAPOLIS AVE.
83 MH	JOHN MORRIS RESIDENCE HALL 1200 N. FIRST ST.
85 THC	TRACK HOUSE / CONCESSION 201 W. RED SKELTON BLVD.
86 VRH	HENRY & FRANCOIS VANDERBURGH RESIDENCE HALL 20 W. ST. CLAIR ST.
87 ES	EXTENDED STUDIES 1000 N. FOURTH ST.
95 MRIC	MAIL ROOM / IMAGING CTR. 111 W. SCOTT ST.
151 FQ	FRENCH QUARTER COMMONS HOUSE 617 N. 1ST STREET
152 FQA	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING A 700 N. 2ND STREET
153 FQB	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING B 800 N. 2ND STREET
154 FQC	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING C 100 HART STREET
155 FQD	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING D 615 N. 1ST STREET
156 FQE	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING E 720 N. 1ST STREET
157 FQF	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING F 610 N. 1ST STREET
158 FQG	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING G 50 HART STREET
159 FQH	FRENCH QUARTER - BUILDING H 10 HART STREET

"So glad you asked!" -- Frequently Asked Questions

- **What network do I log into to access the internet?** Vincennes has a campus-wide WiFi network. Look for VU Guest Wifi. **Wifi password is "Vincennes1801".**
- **How do I find my ballot?** You should have received an email from Speechwire that includes your password. Use your email address and password to sign in at speechwire.com You should see a link to your ballot. In the alternative, you can find your ballot at live.speechwire.com and log in. Once logged in, you can opt to receive text notifications for future ballots.
- **What should I do when I find out I will judge a round?** As soon as you learn that you have a round, please immediately access your ballot and click "Click Here to Start the Round". The following is an example:



Starting your round immediately will notify the Tab Room that you have your ballot and are now in route to the competition room. If you do not start your round immediately, Tab Room may believe that you have not received your ballot and could assign it to another judge in order to keep the Tournament on schedule. Then, please proceed to the competition room.

- **Why am I not judging every round?** We will try to avoid overbooking judges. Likewise, we will do our best to evenly distribute rounds among all of the judges so that no one has too much downtime. If you are not currently scheduled to judge a round, please remain in the Judges' Lounge in the Student Union ***(we will be in the same buildings as the students this year).*** We need access to you just in case we need to replace a judge who doesn't show or can't judge for some other reason.
- **What do I do when I'm not judging?** The Judges' Lounge is in the Student Union. Please hang out in this area so we can easily find you if needed.
- **What should I do if my contestants haven't arrived?** Some students are double-entered in the tournament, so it's possible they are competing in their other event first and have not made it to your room quite yet. That's OK. If you have a missing contestant, please move on to the next contestant in your room. If you have heard all of the contestants who are

present but a missing contestant still has not shown up in your room, you can text the Tab Room (Marissa Mitchell's cell: 812.629.8486; secondary Tony Fehrenbacher cell: 812.604.8127) and verify if the student is double entered. When texting the Tab Room, please identify (1) your name, (2) the category you are judging, (3) your room, and (4) the missing contestant number. Please be patient with Tab Room as we are coordinating this multi-building Tournament using a cadre of volunteers scattered around campus.

- **How should I handle double-entered students?** Double-entries are permitted in all Speech categories except Discussion. No double-entry is permitted in the debates (World Schools, Public Forum, Policy, and Lincoln Douglas) or Congress. You should start each round by asking if anyone is double-entered. If you have double-entries, please have them speak first and then excuse them from the room after they finish speaking. Double-entered students have been given instructions as to which categories they should go first.
    - *For Rounds 1 and 2* --- Double entries in **Extemp** must go to Extemp prep **first**. **Impromptu** double-entries must go to Impromptu **last**. Double-entries in any other events may choose which category to go to first.
    - *Round 3 and Final Round* --- Due to Tournament schedule, double entries in **Extemp** should go to Extemp prep **last** and ask to go first in the other category. Except for Extempers who are double-entered in Impromptu, **all other Impromptu** double-entries must still go to Impromptu **last**. Double-entries in **Broadcasting (Final Round only)** should report to Broadcasting **last**. Double-entries in any other events may choose which category to go to first.
- **My Impromptu or Extemp speaker asked to time themselves. Can they do that?** Yes. We follow ISSDA rules. If the speaker asks if they can time themselves, you should allow them to do that. You should, however, also keep time for yourself as your time controls. You do not need to give hand signals if the student keeps track of their own time.
- **Do I have to offer time signals for Extemporaneous or Impromptu?** Yes, if the student elects not to keep track of their own time. Impromptu, please verbally identify time elasped in 30 second intervals until the speaker starts speaking. Then, once the Impromptu competitor begins speaking, please cease giving verbal cues and then start giving hand signals for the remaining time left. For both Extemp and Impromptu, hand signals for the amount of time left is appropriate. For example: 4 fingers for 4 minutes left, 3 fingers for 3 minutes left, 2 fingers for 2 minutes left, 1 finger for 1 minute left, sideways finger for 30 seconds left, and a closed fist for end of time.
- **My round is now done. What do I do now?** Please first enter your rankings for the round and then save your ballot. Saving the ballot tells the Tab Room that your round is done. Then, please enter your feedback for each contestant. You may enter your feedback while sitting in the competition room or in the Judges' Lounge.
- **How much feedback should I give?** The quantity of feedback that you give is up to you. At a minimum, please give at least give each student a reason for why they placed in the

position they did. That said, speech postseason is right around the corner. So, the more that you can offer to help the contestant improve, the better.

- **If I have questions, where can I turn for answers?**
    - *If you are in the Judges' Lounge* -- you have several options. Most of the judges sitting in the Judges' Lounge have judged before and could be good resources. Coaches will likely be in the Judges' Lounge and are happy to answer qustions. If you still do not receive an answer, please go to the Tab Room which is also located ***in the Student Union***.
    - *If you are in another building on campus* – you also have a couple options. A designated building monitor has been assigned to each building. Please consult with them first. Coaches will also be walking around campus and in the various buildings, and they are obviously good resources.

Speech Event Descriptions

Broadcasting:

- Speaking Time: Depends on the round
  Rd 1: News Program (example: Music leadin/leadout, Commercial, Newscast) 5 min.
  Rd 2: News Program (example: Music leadin/leadout, Commercial, Newscast) 5 min.
  Rd 3: Breaking News (2 Minute Prep, 2 Minute Performance)
  Rd 4: Editorial (30 Minute Prep, 2 Minute Performance)
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students present their material either over a microphone to a judge in another room or separated by divider; in iether case, judges will not see contestants. Some material is prepared ahead of time, other material is prepared at the tournament, and other material is impromptu. Broadcasting contestants present newscasts, commercials, editorials, and breaking news.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to present their information with clarity and effective vocal qualities.
  - If you have Round 3, you will be in charge of prep timing. More information will provided later.

Declamation:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes in length
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students present a memorized oration or excerpt of an oration that has been publicly delivered at some time and place by the author, who may or may not be an expert speaker. Public address does not include poetry readings, singing performances, storytelling events, stand up comedy routines, or speeches given in fictional works.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to present their interpretation of the speech, using the physical and vocal attributes of effective speakers.
  - The use of props, costuming, and makeup is not permitted.

Discussion:

- Speaking Time: 60 minutes
- Doubling: Students are <u>not allowed</u> to double. They should be present when the round is scheduled to start.

- Special Note:
  - Judges should pick up discussion questions from Tab Room before heading to the competiton room.
- Description:
  - Students participate in a round-table type discussion using a Socratic Seminar format. Students receive artifacts prior to the tournament but do not receive guiding questions until they reach the round.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged on the following:
    - Their ability to address the questions while also interacting and collaborating with their fellow discussers.
    - Their ability to connect their responses to their fellow discussers' responses as well as ensuring all members of the group have an opportunity to participate.
    - Speaking over others and aggressively dominating the discussion should be penalized.

Dramatic Interpretation:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students memorize dramatic selections from plays, short stories, essays or novels. The speakers' selections will have one or more characters telling a story.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to successfully present their interpretation of the character(s) for the audience.
  - Consideration should be given to the clarity of characterization, ability to distinguish between characters and/or emotions through the use of vocal, facial, and physical skills.

Duo Interpretation:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Duo contestants may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Two speakers work together presenting a selection from a play, short story, or novel. Each speaker must do at least one character. Duo students may either memorize selections or read selections from a manuscript.
  - The two speakers may look at each other during the introduction, but are not allowed to touch or look directly at each other during their performance.
- Judging Criteria:

- Students should be judged based on their ability to successfully present their interpretation of the character(s) for the audience.
- Consideration should be given to the clarity of characterization, ability to distinguish between characters and/or emotions through the use of vocal, facial, and physical skills.

Humorous Interpretation:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students memorize comedic selections from plays, short stories, essays or novels. The speakers' selections will have one or more characters telling a story.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to successfully present their interpretation of the character(s) for the audience.
  - Consideration should be given to the clarity of characterization, ability to distinguish between characters and/or emotions through the use of vocal, facial, and physical skills.

Impromptu:

- Speaking Time: 0-7 minutes
- Doubling: Impromptu students may double in other events.
- Special Note:
  - Judges assigned to impromptu will need to pick up impromptu topics from Tab Room.
  - Students should wait in the hall until it is their turn to speak.
  - The judge should serve as the official timer for the round even if students time themselves.
  - Speaker may hold no notes while speaking. Speaker may, however, hold the prompt while speaking.
- Timing:
  - *Students may elects to time themselves*. Judges should still keep time for themselves. No need to give hand signals.
  - *If students choose not to time themselves:*
  - *While student preps*: *verbally* identify time elasped in 30 second intervals so that Speaker knows how much time has elapsed.
  - *When student speaks*: Cease giving verbal cues. Start giving hand signals for the remaining time. For example: 4 fingers for 4 minutes left, 3 fingers for 3 minutes left, 2 fingers for 2 minutes left, 1 finger for 1 minute left, sideways finger for 30 seconds left, and a closed fist for end of time.
- Description:
  - Judges should call each student in one at a time to deliver their speech.

    - Once given their topic, the student has a total of 7 minutes to prepare and then present their speech on the topic presented.
    - Students may make notes while they are preparing but are **NOT** allowed to use any notes when presenting.
- Judging Criteria:
    - Students should be judged based on their ability to organize their thoughts and present a structured speech connected to the topic presented to them.
    - Consideration should be given to the overall presentation: content, delivery, and presence.

Informative Speaking:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events
- Description:
    - Students write a speech informing the audience about a topic they find interesting.
    - Students may use a non-electronic visual aid, but are not required to.
    - The speech is memorized. No notes may be used.
- Judging Criteria:
    - Students should be judged based on their ability to present their information in a clear and effective manner. If visual aids are used, they should serve to illustrate the speaker's ideas and information without being a distraction.
    - Consideration should be given to the overall presentation: content, delivery, and presence.

International Extemp:

- Speaking Time: ~7 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
    - Students spend 30 minutes researching and writing their response to a current event question about an international topic.
    - This is a memorized category. Speaker may hold no notes while speaking.
- Timing:
    - *Students may elects to time themselves.* Judges should still keep time for themselves. No need to give hand signals.
    - *If student elects not to time themselves, please give hand signals.* Please give hand signals starting at 4 minutes left and down. For example: 4 fingers for 4 minutes left, 3 fingers for 3 minutes left, 2 fingers for 2 minutes left, 1 finger for 1 minute left, sideways finger for 30 seconds left, and a closed fist for end of time.
- Judging Criteria:

- Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively answer the question they have chosen with clearly cited sources, solid structure to their answer, and solid analysis of the information they present.

Original Oratory:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students write a persuasive speech focusing on individual concerns or an issue they find interesting or important.
  - Their speech must be presented from memory without the use of any notes.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively convey their chosen topic to the audience. While a possible solution can be given, it is not required.
  - Consideration should be given to the overall presentation: content, delivery, and presence.

Original Performance:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students write and perform their own material. Students may write poems, brief stories, plays, or essays. The performance may be read or memorized. Students may work as a duo team or as an individual speaker.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to successfully present their interpretation of the character(s) for the audience.
  - Consideration should be given to the clarity of characterization, ability to distinguish between characters and/or emotions through the use of vocal, facial, and physical skills.

Poetry:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
  - Students prepare a poetry program focusing on a single theme. Program must be 5-10 minutes long and include 2 or more poems. Poems must be written by someone other than the reader and be published. The poetry is read from a script.

- Judging Criteria:
    - Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively present their interpretation of the poetry selections within the context of the specified theme.

Programmed Oral Interp (P.O.I.):

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events
- Description:
    - Students prepare a scripted program integrating at least 2 different genres (fiction, non-fiction, drama) that focuses on a central theme or message. The program is read from a script.
- Judging Criteria:
    - Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively present their interpretation of the chosen selections within the context of the specified theme.

Prose:

- Speaking Time: 5-10 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
    - Students present a selected portion from a short story, essay, or narrative, focusing on interpreting the selection's meaning and storyline. The story is read from a script.
- Judging Criteria:
    - Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively present their interpretation of the chosen selection.

U.S. Extemp:

- Speaking Time: ~7 minutes
- Doubling: Students may double in other events.
- Description:
    - Students have spent 30 minutes researching and writing their response to a current event question about an domestic topic regarding United States-focused matters.
    - This is a memorized category. Speaker may hold no notes while speaking.
- Timing:
    - *Students may elects to time themselves.* Judges should still keep time for themselves. No need to give hand signals.
    - *If students want judges to give time signals instead:* Please give hand signals starting at 4 minutes left and down. For example: 4 fingers for 4 minutes left, 3

fingers for 3 minutes left, 2 fingers for 2 minutes left, 1 finger for 1 minute left, sideways finger for 30 seconds left, and a closed fist for end of time.

- Judging Criteria:
  - Students should be judged based on their ability to effectively answer the question they have chosen with clearly cited sources, solid structure to their answer, and solid analysis of the information they present.

Debate Event Descriptions

For PF/LD/Policy/World School:

Speaker points are used as one of our tiebreakers to advance teams to the next round. To ensure accurate results we request that you use the following criteria in determining speaker points at this tournament.

PF/World Schools: Speaker points will be assigned to each team as a whole.
LD: Speaker points will be assigned to each debater.
Policy: You will assign speaker points to each individual debater in addition to ranking the 4 debaters.

Why speaker points?

- Debate teaches critical thinking and public presentation skills. Win/Loss in each round reflects the content of the debate and determines the overall record for a team. At the end of a tournament, however, many teams remained tied and speaker points are used to break those ties to determine the winners of a tournament
- Please follow the NSDA point range to award points in a round (20-30). DO NOT GO BELOW 20 as it basically eliminates them from the competition.
- Half-Points are acceptable at this tournament (ie 27.5). Use either whole numbers or steps of .5
- It is possible to give two students/teams the same speaker points – ie tied at 30

29 - 30	Exceptionally strong debaters, among the top you have seen in this division
27 - 28	Above average debate/speaking performance. Some small errors in speaking or strategy, but still very good
25 – 26	Average debate performance. Some easy to spot mistakes/areas to improve on.
22 - 24	Below average debate performance. Quite a few easy to spot mistakes/errors in strategy or public speaking. Less prepared than you expected

20 – 22	Exceptionally weak/unacceptable behavior. Choose this range if you want to send a signal to the coach/debaters that a part of their performance was unacceptable (rudeness, inappropriate arguments etc). YOU MUST CLEARLY WRITE WHAT UPSET YOU IF YOU ARE IN THIS RANGE

Public Forum Debate:

- Coin Toss. The round begins with a coin flip to determine sides and who goes first and who is on which side. Adjust your ballot after the coin toss is complete*
- Speaking Times:
  - Case reads
    - Speaker 1- 4 min
    - Speaker 2 – 4 min
    - Crossfire between speaker 1 and 2 – 3 mins
  - Refuting/Rebuilding cases
    - Speaker 3 – 4 min
    - Speaker 4 – 4 min
    - Crossfire between speaker 3 and 4 – 3 min-
  - Summaries
    - Speaker 1 – 3 minutes
    - Speaker 2 – 3 minutes
    - Grand crossfire between all four speakers – 3 minutes
  - Final Focus
    - Speaker 3 – 2 minutes
    - Speaker 4 – 2 minutes
- Prep time: Each team has a total of 3 minutes to use at their discretion

Lincoln Douglas Debate:

- Speaking Times:
  - Affirmative Constructive – 6 minutes / Cross-examination – 3 minutes
  - Negative Constructive – 7 minutes / Cross-examination – 3 minutes
  - 1st Affirmative rebuttal – 4 minutes
  - Negative constructive – 6 minutes
  - 2nd Affirmative rebuttal – 3 minutes

- Prep time: Each debater has a total of 4 minutes to use at their discretion

Policy Debate:

- Speaking Times:
  - 1st affirmative constructive – 8 minutes / Cross-examination – 3 minutes
  - 1st negative constructive – 8 minutes/ Cross-examination – 3 minutes
  - 2nd affirmative constructive – 8 minutes / Cross-examination – 3 minutes

- 2nd negative constructive – 8 minutes / Cross-examination – 3 minutes
- 1st negative rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 1st affirmative rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 2nd negative rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 2nd affirmative rebuttal – 5 minutes

- Prep time: Each team has a total of 5 minutes to use at their discretion
- Unique Elements:
  - There are no restrictions on types of arguments that can be used.

World Schools Debate:

- Doubling: Students may not double in other events.
- Steps to Round / Timing:
  - 1st Proposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes (Must present 1st and 2nd main arguments)
  - 1st Opposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes (Must present 1st and 2nd main arguments)
  - 2nd Proposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes (Must present 3rd main argument)
  - 2nd Opposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes (Must present 3rd main argument)
  - 3rd Proposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes
  - 3rd Opposition Substantive Speech 8 minutes
  - Opposition Reply Speech 4 minutes (Must be delivered by 1st or 2nd Speaker)
  - Proposition Reply Speech 4 minutes (Must be delivered by 1st or 2nd Speaker)
- Points of Information ("POI's").
  - During each substantive speech, the opposing team is permitted to request POIs of the speaker during the middle 6 minutes of the speech. (The first and last minute of each speech is protected time.)
  - A POI is an opportunity for the opposing team to ask a question of the speaker or to make a statement in opposition.
  - A POI can be asked by any member of the opposing team, but it is considered bad form to harass the opposing team with POIs occurring too frequently while convention also suggests that a speaker take 2-3 POIs during their speech at their discretion.
  - A POI can be accepted or denied by the speaker with a simple "No, thank you" or hand motion.
  - No POI can be requested during Reply Speeches.
- Judging Criteria:
  - Content. The teams should have well organized arguments that can be clearly understood by the judges.

- Style. This is the way that each speaker is delivering their arguments and conducting themselves at the podium and during POI. All speakers work to deliver engaging, clear, and convincing arguments.
- Strategy. The team's arguments structure, refutations of opponent's arguments, use of POI is all part of the strategy of the round. Though the teams do not have to refute every argument of their opponent, the most important arguments should be refuted by the teams.

Congressional Debate:

Students will set the 'order that the legislation is to be debated at the beginning of the session.

- Round Times:
  - Round 1- Starts at 9:30 am and should end by 12:00pm. This round will include election of a Presiding Officer and setting the order of debate.
  - Round 2 - Starts at 1:00pm and should end by 3:30pm.

- Speaking Times: Unless the debaters in the chamber choose (through Parliamentary procedure) to change these, the times are as follows:
  - 3 minute maximum speech time with 1 minute cross-examination periods (except for the first affirmative and first negative speech for a new piece of legislation - in which case it is a 2 minute cross-examination period).

- Unique Elements:
  - Precedence and Recency will reset at the start of each level (Rounds and Finals)
  - In the Final Round, students will rate the Presiding Officers who served. The Parliamentarian will collect the ballots and hand them to the Congress Chair who will tabulate the results.
  - The competitors may choose to use Direct Questioning. This means that the questioner gets up to 30 seconds to ask as many questions/follow-ups as time allows. They do not have to use all 30 seconds. Cross-x still remains at 1 minute for everything except the first affirmative and negative speeches on a bill
- Judging:
  - One Judge will be designated/told that they are the parliamentarian
  - The Parliamentarian ranks ALL speakers in the chamber from 1 (best) to last in sequential numerical order (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
  - One Judge will be designated as the Official scorer. In addition to ranking the top 8 in the round, they will rate each speech given on a scale of 1-6 (with 6 being the highest) for NSDA points (other events are 6 for a win and 3 for a loss). The Presiding Officer should be assigned speaker points for each bill they preside over